



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #RAP-10-056

TITLE: Funding parity within the Federal School System

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, there exists a unique political and legal relationship between the government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes. This relationship with the United States Government (Government) is set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, Federal statutes, and judicial decisions. The Government is responsible for the “adequate” education of our children through the numerous treaties with our Indigenous peoples, federal statutes, and judicial decisions also bound by the US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is fiscally responsible for two separate school systems, the Dept. of Defense (DOD) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), they however are not funded equally. The Federal government is responsible by treaty for 184 Indian schools funded by the BIA. The BIA funds 7,341 educational facility structures in Indian country, which serve more than 60,000 students and 238 federally, recognized Indian tribes located in 23 states. At current funding, BIA schools are funded at 48% of actual cost as referenced in recent BIA safety reports; and

WHEREAS, our tribal schools are dilapidated and most are unsafe, while inflation and isolation placed most of our schools in precarious predicaments the funding steadily decreased which further placed our school in dire need of major repair or total replacement; and

WHEREAS, NCAI has repeatedly adopted resolutions, including PHX-96-045, targeting the unsafe conditions of our tribal schools caused by the constrained funding of Congress and the neglect of the BIA/BIE. All of which seem to be an exercise in futility, as the conditions have worsened throughout the many Administrations and Congresses, all of which had promised our Indigenous children that their educational environments would improve. Due to this and other factors, the era of requesting has concluded and the time to demand is here.

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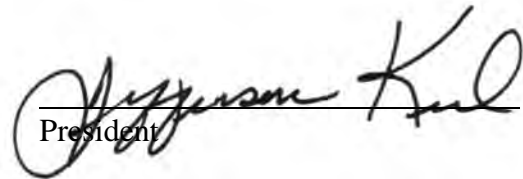
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby demand the President of the United States to include in his budget request to Congress to fully fund BIA funded tribal schools, specifically the Facilities Operations and Maintenance and the Administrative Costs Grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

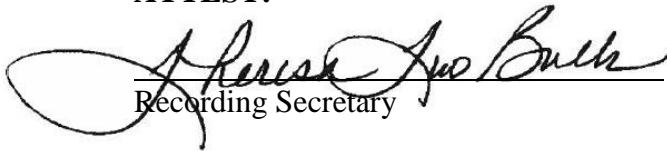
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, South Dakota on June 20-23, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary