



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PSP-09-067

TITLE: Requesting Distribution of Unallocated Funding of the 2009 Special Appropriations for American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start Programs

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Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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, Indian Country declares that the academic, mental, social, spiritual and physical well-being of our Head Start children and their parents/guardians are of the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2009 the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start program received \$10 million in funding for which the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Head Start (OHS) issued notices for grant applications to: (1) expand the number of slots available for enrollment; (2) change part-day programs to full-day programs; or (3) change home-based programs to center-based programs; and

WHEREAS, the full \$10 million may not be fully utilized due to structural limitations in the AI/AN program that include: (1) smaller AI/AN programs do not have full-time grant writers and could not take advantage of this grant opportunity; (2) the grant application requirements are unusually burdensome discouraging many applicants; and (3) the funding was focused on expansion which, for many programs, cannot be achieved on short notice due to a lack of facilities to expand into or insufficient funding to build, buy or renovate a facility (if one can even be found to renovate) and still have funding to serve additional children; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Head Start Directors Association urges that any undistributed funds from the \$10 million appropriation should be distributed among all programs to achieve the “catch-up” effect that was originally intended and to strengthen these programs so that they can overcome these limitations and be able to expand.

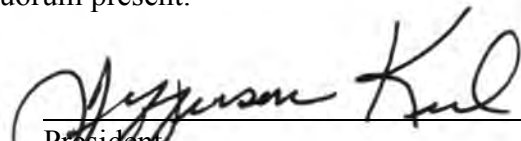
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the Indian Head Start Directors Association in their endeavor to disburse, among all tribal grantees, any remaining funds from the \$10 million tribal appropriation based upon the number of children each program serves for the purposes of building capability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until the final adjournment of the 111th Congress.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2009 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, California on October 11-16, 2009, with a quorum present.

ATTEST:



President



Recording Secretary