



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #RAP-10-045

### **TITLE: Support for Elevating the Office of Indian Education Position to an Assistant Secretary within the Department of Education**

**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**, education remains a key priority for tribal Nations and tribal citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of Indian children in K-12 systems are educated through state public school systems that receive Federal assistance through their state education agency; and

**WHEREAS**, in many public school systems on or near Indian reservations, Indian children are the majority of the students; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of statutes relating to Indian education have been passed by Congress, and many of them are administered by the U.S. Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, these statutes are based on the political relationship between tribes and tribal citizens and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian students have unique needs in terms of language and culture and their needs are not always met by local educational agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that the unique needs of Indians and Indian tribes are met in the educational system, and based on the political relationship between tribes and the United States, the U.S. Department of Education should have an Assistant Secretary for Indian Education similar to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs within the Department of Interior who will actively participate in the formation of policy towards Indian education issues within public school systems in the United States; and

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**WHEREAS**, it is of critical importance that such a position be created now while the renewal of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is being debated in Congress during the Second Session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress which will probably adjourn in early October, 2010.

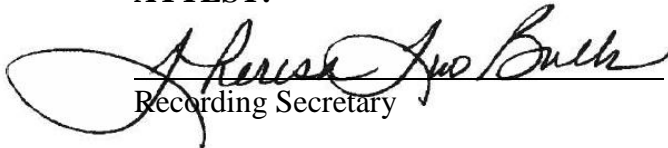
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Secretary of the Department of Education, Arnie Duncan, in consultation with the tribal Nations, create the position of an Assistant Secretary of Education as soon as possible; and

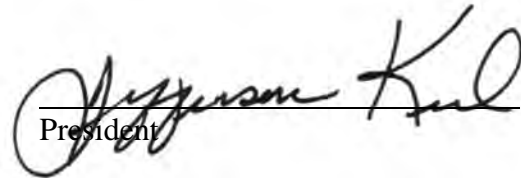
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until the position of Assistant Secretary for Indian Education is created by the U.S. Department of Education and a qualified person is appointed to the position.

### 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.

**ATTEST:**

  
Recording Secretary

  
President