



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-020

### TITLE: Addressing Alcohol/Drug/Substance Abuse

**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**, United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) is a national network organization promoting personal development, citizenship, and leadership among American Indian and Alaska Native youth and is committed to a mission of fostering the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of Native youth and helping build a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the National UNITY Council is comprised of American Indian and Alaska Native youth (ages 15-24) who provide a collective voice and represent members of 150 UNITY-affiliated youth councils in 35 states; and

**WHEREAS**, the National UNITY Council recognizes the negative impact of alcohol/drug/substance abuse and its devastation within tribes, villages, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the National UNITY Council approved a resolution addressing the abuse of alcohol, drug, and other substances during the 2010 National UNITY Conference held in July 2010 in San Diego, CA.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI agrees with the National UNITY Council that it is time to respond to alcohol/drug/substance abuse by taking a stand, addressing the issue, and joining others in helping build stronger and healthier tribes, villages, and communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI calls upon its members and friends to utilize their creativity and energy in helping prevent and eliminate the abuse of alcohol, drugs, and illegal substances; and

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#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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[www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a National Awareness Campaign be developed and conducted to address the issue of alcohol/drug/substance abuse through the active participation of NCAI member tribes and villages, UNITY-affiliated youth councils, tribal and village leaders, Native organizations, governmental agencies, foundations, and other interested parties; and

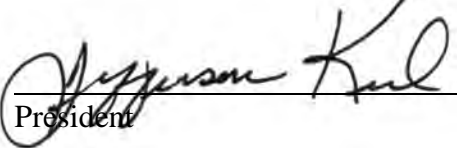
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI calls for improved mental health programs, the establishment of culturally-based and youth-specific educational offerings, additional physical and recreational activities – all of which will contribute to the spiritual, mental, physical, and social growth of children, youth, and families, and therefore reducing alcohol, drug, and substance abuse among Native youth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI will support current laws regarding underage drinking and other laws related to the abuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances as well as the implementation of stronger laws to curtail the distribution of illegal substances; and

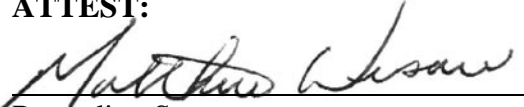
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution or until the policy objective of this Resolution is accomplished.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.

  
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President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Recording Secretary