



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-026

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation

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(Pueblo of San Juan)*

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Colleen F. Cawston
Colville Confederated Tribes

TREASURER
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Title: Right of Tribal Governments to Integrate Services Under PL 102-477, Including Services for Welfare Recipients

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians in our own distinct territories, 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, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act (PL 102-477) authorizes tribal governments to integrate the services they provide and combine the federal resources they receive under a variety of employment, training, education, social services, child care and other programs through the use of a single plan, a single budget and a single reporting system; and

WHEREAS, the 477 demonstration is a voluntary initiative in which each tribe has the full authority to make its own decision as to whether to participate, and, if so, which program services to integrate under its tribally-written 477 plan; and

WHEREAS, currently 46 tribes and Alaska Native organizations, which together serve approximately 40% of all federally-recognized tribal governments, are participating in the demonstration program under PL 102-477; and

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WHEREAS, these participating tribes have demonstrated that such integration of program services results in more effective services to more tribal people than was previously possible when a variety of federal programs had to be administered separately at the tribal level; and

WHEREAS, the integration of services has proven especially valuable in meeting the needs of welfare recipients in reservation areas; and

WHEREAS, the 477 demonstration has also developed a strong tribal-federal partnership, on an inter-Departmental basis, which has been key to the success of 477; and

WHEREAS, every federal agency has the obligation to respect the right of tribes to choose to include any program which is legally eligible in its 477 plan, including programs related to promoting self-sufficiency such as TANF and the Native Employment Works (NEW) programs; and

WHEREAS, every federal agency whose programs may be included in a 477 plan is obligated to respect the tribal-federal partnership upon which the 477 demonstration is based.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby express its support for the right of tribal governments to choose to participate in the PL 102-477 demonstration as a way of improving services for tribal people and strengthening tribal control over such services in order to insure that the services are provided in meaningful and culturally relevant ways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI strongly opposes any attempt by any federal agency to weaken or destroy this demonstration program; and

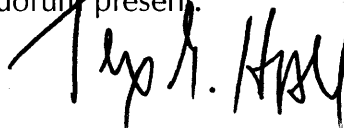
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports a provision in the reauthorization of the welfare reform law which insures that tribes have the right to include their employment, TANF, child care and other relevant services under 477 plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI inform the leadership and members of all Congressional Committees with jurisdiction over Indian affairs and welfare reform of this resolution; and

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

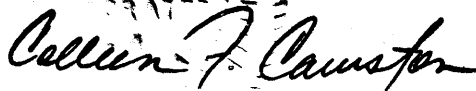
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Colleen F. Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.