



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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### RESOLUTION #SPO-01-047

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Tex G. Hall  
*Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
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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: Support for Alternative Education Methods for American Indian and Alaska Native Students**

**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 NCAI, in the efforts and commitment to quality Indian education, are cognizant of the non-traditional educational opportunities that are often less available to Indian communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAI does support the "Building Blocks for Our Future," which include, "language, culture and spirituality; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAI does support those efforts seeking alternative initiatives to increase graduation rates among American Indian students; and

**WHEREAS**, this alternative method shall not relieve the responsibilities of the Department of Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Education Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAI does hereby support alternative education systems that promote a student's identity through culture, language and spirituality.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jacqueline L. Johnson  
*Tlingit*

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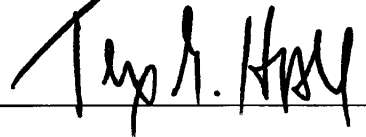
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support alternative education systems, specifically American Indian charter schools, that embrace and facilitate the student's culture, language and spirituality for the well-being of our Indian students; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports any alternative education system that empowers Indian students, communities and Indian nations as they strive to achieve educational excellence; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution as a national response to the need to maintain an educated American Indian citizenry.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> 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 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.