

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-051

Title: Support of State Legislation that Recognizes the Culture and History of American Indians, Similar to that of Montana Code 20-1-501

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, NCAI recognizes the importance of the inclusion of curriculum in all grades K-Higher Education that helps all students learn about the history, culture and contemporary issues of the American Indian; and

NCAI recognizes the current issues of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians cannot be adequately addressed and strategies for solutions found unless both Indians and non-Indians have an understanding of the history, culture and contemporary contributions of the Nations' Indian people; and

NCAI recognizes that the state of Montana has as part of its State Constitutional language that supports the inclusion of American Indian culture in Article X, 1 (2); and

WHEREAS, 1999, MCA 20-1-501, that provides the state's educational systems with guidance in implementing the legislative intent of Article X, 1 (2) with the following language in Section 1:

- (1) *it is the constitutionally declared policy of this state to recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and to be committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural heritage: (2) It is the intent of the legislative that in accordance with Article X, section 1 (2), of the Montana Constitution: (a) Every Montanan, whether Indian or non-Indian, be encourage to learn about the distinct and unique heritage of American Indians in culturally responsive manner. (b) Every educational agency and all educational personnel will work cooperatively with Montana tribes or those tribes that are in close proximity, when providing instruction or when implementing an educational goal to include information specific to the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis on Montana Indian tribal groups and governments. (3) It is also the intent, of sections (1-3) predicated on the belief that all school personnel should have an understanding and awareness of Indian tribes to help them relate effectively with Indian students and parents, that educational personnel provide a means y which school personnel will gain and understanding of and appreciation for the American Indian people.*

school systems for American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

ship (such as the offices of Public Instruction, Commissioners of Higher Education, Boards of Regents, Boards of Public Education, and local school boards throughout the nation and Montana to develop, implement, and monitor the policies and action plans that have been designed to fulfill MCA 20-1-501 with the utmost expediency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports state efforts that recognize the contributions of American Indian tribes in the history of this country and the contributions made by tribes in various states; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,

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 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.