



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-012

#### **Title: Support for S. 550 - Indian and Alaskan Native Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Services Amendments of 2001**

**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 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, largest, and most representative national American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1980 Congress enacted the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act, which provides entitlement funding for foster care and adoption assistance services for income eligible children placed by states; and

**WHEREAS**, Title IV-E only provides this funding to states and tribes that have agreements with states, providing no opportunity for tribes to apply for and directly administer this program without an agreement with a state; and

**WHEREAS**, only 70 tribes nationwide have been able to develop these Title IV-E agreements, with some agreements only allowing partial access to these federal entitlement funds; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 550, introduced in the United States Senate on March 15, 2001, amends Title IV-E to provide tribal governments the option to apply directly to the federal government for these funds, as well as continue agreements if the tribe chooses so; and

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WHEREAS, S. 550 also allows tribes to designate their own service population, use their foster care standards, apply as part of a tribal consortium and use a variety of funding sources to help meet match requirements of IV-E; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has previously supported through resolution direct funding from Title IV-E for tribal governments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the passage of S. 550, the "Indian and Alaskan Native Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Services Amendments" in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001, with a quorum present.



Susan Masten, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001.