



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-042

#### **Title: Governor's Appointing American Indian Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program Directors, or Their Representatives, to the State Independent Living Councils and Vocational Rehabilitation Councils as Required by Law.**

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Shoshone Tribe*

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A. Bruce Jones  
*Lumbee*

#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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**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**, presently there are 65 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation programs funded through the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998, there are regulations that specify that there is a required designated representative of the American Indian Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program Directors, or their representatives, within that state that has at least one program within their state; and

**WHEREAS**, presently there are some state Governors that have not appointed the required representative and not been cooperative in appointing this required representation on their State Independent Living Council and or their State Vocational Rehabilitation Council; and

**WHEREAS**, representation is critical for Tribes to be included in state plans which will direct how dollars will be spent and services provided for both Independent Living services and Vocational Rehabilitation services and outreach; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support that through working with the Governor's Association and the liaison of the President of NCAI, that those states that are presently not in compliance of the law will appoint and place the designated American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation program director, or designated representative, on both their state Independent Living Council and State Vocational Rehabilitation Council where there is at least one of these programs within that state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI will contact the Governor's Association and work with Rehabilitation Services Administration and organizations such as American Indian Rehabilitation Rights Organization of Warriors (AIRROW), which is a grassroots Native American Disability Advocacy group, to ensure that there is representation for tribes in creating access to services and outreach; and

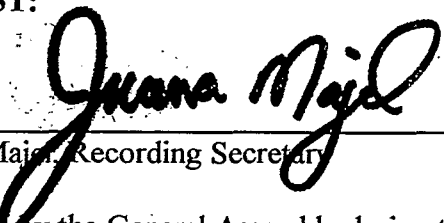
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution in working with AIRROW towards resolving this compliance issue of representation within the year 2001.

**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:**

  
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Juana Major, 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.