



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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RESOLUTION #MSH-01-052

Title: Requesting a Delay in the Consideration of S. 211, the Native American Educational Improvement Act of 2001, Until All Interested Parties Have Had the Opportunity to Review and Respond to the Changes, and Reaffirming a Policy that Tribal Governments Must be Involved with Educational Programs

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, the United States Senate is currently considering S.211, amendments to PL 95-561 and PL 100-297, that have not been thoroughly reviewed by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and educators; and

WHEREAS, these laws establish and define the BIA funded school system and require the active involvement of all concerned with education, including tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2001, S. 211 was introduced into the Senate and was marked up on April 4, 2001; however, there has been no opportunity for review of the changes made; and

WHEREAS, there are reports that the authority of tribes to establish standards, choose standards for the schools and participate in government to government rule making is being diminished.

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A. Bruce Jones
Lumbee

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby request that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs delay action on S. 211 until such time that tribal and school officials have a chance to review and respond to the changes that have been made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby express its position that this legislation must properly include a role for tribal governments and ensure that education programs are operated on a government to government basis; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby endorse the provision that has been removed from the bill establishing the option for tribes to establish and implement their own unique educational standards based on the inherent sovereignty of Indian nations.

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.