

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-055

Title: Support for an American Indian Consultation Policy in the U.S. Department of Education

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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, the U.S. Department of Education has never had an official policy on consultation on American Indian and Alaska Native education; and

WHEREAS, several other agencies including the Department of Justice, Department of Interior, and Department of Health and Human Services have developed tribal consultation policies; and

WHEREAS, other national Indian organizations, including the National Advisory Council on Indian Education and the National Indian Education Association, have supported the development of a Department of Education tribal consultation policy; and

WHEREAS, educational decisions affecting American Indian and Alaska Native youth often are made without the benefit of Indian input; and

WHEREAS, education has been delegated a high priority in the Bush administration and American Indian and Alaska Native students are achieving at a rate lower than all other population groups.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the development of a consultation policy in the U.S. Department of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI believes the government to government relationship that exists should be reflected in educational decisions affecting American Indian and Alaska Native youth; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution for a formal consultation policy in the Department of Education that will allow for equal representation by Indian Country in all educational decisions affecting American Indian and Alaska Native people.


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 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.