



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-066

Title: To Recommend that the Reauthorization of P.L.99-570 (Department of Interior) Contain a Provision for Federal Direct Funding to Tribes in an Annual Block Grant for Substance Abuse Prevention Among American Indian and Alaska Native Youth

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Susan Masten
Yurok Tribe

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam

RECORDING SECRETARY
Juana Majel
Pauma-Yutma

TREASURER
Ernie Stevens, Jr.
Oneida of Wisconsin

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN
Tom Ranfranz
Flandreau Santee Sioux

ALBUQUERQUE
Joe A. Garcia
San Juan Pueblo

ANADARKO
Merle Boyd
Sac & Fox Nation of OK

BILLINGS
Jonathan Windy Boy
*Chippewa Cree Tribe
of Rocky Boy*

JUNEAU
Mike Williams
Yup'ik

MINNEAPOLIS
Bemida Churchill
*Mille Lacs Band
of Ojibwe*

MUSKOGEE
S. Diane Kelly
Cherokee Nation

NORTHEAST
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

PHOENIX
A. Brian Wallace
Washoe Tribe of NV/CA

PORTLAND
Ernie L. Stensgar
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

SACRAMENTO
Mervin E. Hess
*Lone Pine Paiute-
Shoshone Tribe*

SOUTHEAST
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

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 American Indian and Alaska Native populations have the highest rate of alcohol and substance abuse when compared to all other races and ethnic groups, and have the highest number of alcohol-related deaths per capita in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native youth have the highest rate of current use of alcohol and all illicit drugs, when compared with White, African American, and Hispanic youth; and

WHEREAS, the majority of young people drinking are at risk, and the age of the first drink and substance use by Indian youth starts at age 7-8 years old; and

WHEREAS, individuals do not need to be physically addicted to alcohol to have a problem with alcohol that could be prevented; and

WHEREAS, American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives have inadequate funding resources to address the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and substance abuse prevention grant funding is usually limited to a maximum of 3 years, which is not long enough to accomplish the goals of a tribal prevention program; and

WHEREAS, there is no consistent and continual funding to American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages to ensure maximum effectiveness, maintenance, and sustainability of substance abuse prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government makes annual substance abuse block grant awards to States and six Pacific Jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, most States do not award Tribes their fair share of the substance abuse block grant dollars, yet are counting the American Indian and Alaska Native populations and receiving funding on that basis; and

WHEREAS, there is now evidence that certain prevention strategies work and are effective in the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, prevention of substance abuse can reduce the number of traffic crashes, homicides, suicides, teen pregnancies, truancy, school dropouts, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, fetal alcohol syndrome/fetal alcohol effects (FAS/FAE), and other disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the costs to operate prevention programs are less than the costs of incarceration or the costs of operating treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, studies funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services found that individual-oriented efforts and school-based prevention programs show little long-term success, and whereas comprehensive community substance abuse prevention strategies show long-term success; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native communities need to continue to develop, implement, and evaluate cultural models of substance abuse prevention programs for youth; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native communities need technical assistance to help them develop and implement Tribal Action Plans for prevention with measurable long-term goals.

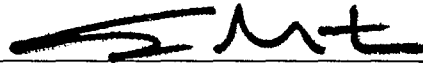
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby request the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs to add a provision to the reauthorization of P.L. 99-570 that recognizes the sovereign status of Tribes by awarding direct Federal funding to Tribes on a consistent annual basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does request the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs to add a provision to the reauthorization of P.L. 99-570 that would establish two Technical Assistance Centers to assist Tribes in developing and implementing annual Tribal Action Prevention Plans; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby supports a provision to P.L. 99-570 that would authorize an annual block grant be awarded to Tribes for developing, implementing, and evaluating comprehensive substance abuse prevention programs.

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.