

**National
Congress of
American
Indians**

Resolution # JNU-97-003

Executive Committee

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Southeast Area
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Executive Director
JoAnn K. Chase
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara

Title: Supporting the Establishment of a NCAI Youth Council

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 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) is the oldest and largest national organization established in 1944 and comprised of representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and local Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of NCAI; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian and Alaska Native youth need leadership experience to prepare them for leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, youth should be provided the opportunity to communicate needs and views that would contribute to positive changes in Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, youth should be provided a leadership role to influence the decision-making process that would improve conditions and/or policy direction that affects the youth of Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, youth, through their collective action, will serve as a catalyst to bring about more unity and harmony in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a political entity through which youth will provide and distribute information and coordinate youth activities; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for interaction and communication among the youth representing the various Tribes and communities; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI has declared that the spiritual, mental, physical and social well-being of the youth is a high priority; and

WHEREAS, NCAI recognizes the importance of developing the potential of the Indian youth to provide them with the essential knowledge and skills experience to become effective leaders; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI is a key national political forum that would contribute to the advisor and mentor relationships needed by the youth, as well as provide an effective forum to disseminate information about the conditions and needs of the youth.

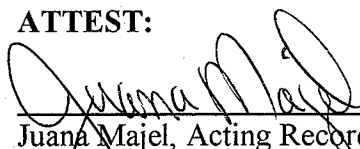
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCAI hereby supports the establishment of an Ad Hoc Task Force to identify and design a council or commission of the NCAI organization to communicate the issues and priorities of the American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 1997 Mid-Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Centennial Hall Convention Center in Juneau, Alaska on June 8-11, 1997 with a quorum present.


W. Ron Allen, President

ATTEST:


Juana Majel, Acting Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 1997 Mid-Year Conference held at the Centennial Hall Convention Center in Juneau, Alaska, on June 8-11, 1997.