



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-067

TITLE: Calling upon the National Congress of American Indians and its Members to Disseminate the Findings of the Becoming Visible Report and Promote Efforts towards Native American Education for All

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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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and 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 and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Reclaiming Native Truth project conducted research in 2017 and found that Americans know little about Native peoples and that the K-12 education system in its current form perpetuates and institutionalizes invisibility, myths, and stereotypes about Native peoples resulting in an enduring and damaging narrative regarding tribal nations and their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Reclaiming Native Truth project found that 72 percent of Americans support significant changes to K-12 school curriculum to ensure accurate Native history in schools; and

WHEREAS, NCAI, IllumiNative, the National Indian Education Association, the National Education Association, and Wend Collective released the Becoming Visible: A Landscape Analysis of State Efforts to Provide Native American Education for All Report (Becoming Visible Report); and

WHEREAS, the Becoming Visible Report found that almost 90 percent of the 28 states surveyed said they had current efforts underway to improve the quality of and access to Native American curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the Becoming Visible Report found that a majority of states surveyed indicated that Native American education is included in their content standards, but far fewer states require Native American education curricula to be taught in public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Becoming Visible Report found that few states have dedicated funding or staff to implement Native American education curricula; and

WHEREAS, a new national project, Native American Education for All, led by IllumiNative in collaboration with other stakeholders, will continue research, develop resources and grants to empower Native American parents, students, advocates, and educators to ensure that curricula in K-12 schools across the country represents accurate Native American history, contemporary issues, and contributions of Native peoples.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and its members will disseminate the findings of the Becoming Visible Report and promote efforts nationally and with state education agencies to implement quality, accurate, tribally-specific Native American education for all K-12 students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI and its members will partner with the “Native American Education for All” project and work to ensure that states adopt Native American education curricula in K-12 schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon individual states to provide funding to implement Native American education curricula and to hire full-time employees dedicated exclusively to Native American education within their respective state education agency; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

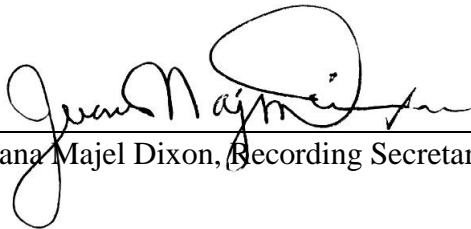
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary