



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ABQ-19-070

**TITLE: Calling Upon the U.S. Census Bureau to Consult with Tribal Nations to Ensure Both Privacy and Accuracy of Census Data for Tribal Governance**

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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 U.S. Census Bureau, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is a principal agency of the U.S. Federal Statistical System, responsible for producing data about the American people and economy that conducts the U.S. Census; and

**WHEREAS**, the Decennial Census is the once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas as required by the U.S. Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) are historically a hard-to-count population in the Decennial Census; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations have inherent sovereign rights to govern their citizens and rely on census data for governance purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, decennial census data is used by federal agencies for policy making, funding formulas, and resources that may benefit tribal nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census Bureau initiated a tribal consultation in September 2019 on their implementation of new methods of protecting privacy and confidentiality of individuals, also referred to as Differential Privacy methods, that may result in some AI/AN census data not being accurate or available to tribal nations; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations need access to census data that is confidential and accurate for governance purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations must submit input as soon as possible since the U.S. Census Bureau plans to make a decision on the extent of the privacy protections they plan to implement in early 2020.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) calls on the U.S Census Bureau to conduct a meaningful consultation with tribal nations until a solution is found to ensure the confidentiality of American Indian and Alaska Native data and access to census data that tribal nations need for their local governance and research purposes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

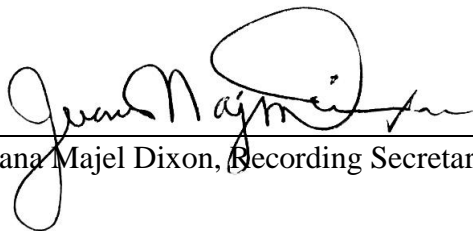
**CERTIFICATION**

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.



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Fawn Sharp, President

**ATTEST:**



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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary