



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ABQ-19-085

**TITLE: Support for Tribal Nations of Alaska in Their Efforts to Fully Implement Child Welfare Compacts with the State of Alaska**

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**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
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 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**, tribal nations play a critical role in the protection of children and the support of their member families related to child welfare issues; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations are an important resource for state governments when American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and families under state jurisdiction need child welfare services and support; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress, in enacting the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 USC 1901 et seq.), stated that AI/AN children are better served when they stay connected to their family, culture, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indian Child Welfare Act recognizes that states and tribes may develop intergovernmental agreements in child welfare and share resources, and Congress provided specific provisions recognizing their respective authority to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations in Alaska have been working very hard with the state over the last few years to develop intergovernmental compacts (agreements) that would help improve child welfare services to Alaska Native children and families in the state through efforts to share state child welfare resources with tribal nations, allowing tribal nations to contract for state services currently provided to tribal members in tribal areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribal-state compact is important to tribal communities by increasing the opportunities that Alaska Native children have to learn traditional knowledge and envision the future of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last year, the current Alaska administration has been walking back some of the previous state government commitments in the tribal child welfare compacts and has proposed to change key provisions that would significantly change the scope and intended outcomes of the compact; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal nations continue to work towards full implementation of the compacts, but the current state administration's positions on the compact have put up serious roadblocks in that process.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians does hereby support the efforts of the tribal nations in Alaska in their efforts to achieve full implementation of the compacts, and urges the Alaska state administration to fulfill their state government's commitment to the tribal nations of Alaska and their people in the compacts; 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