The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-10-106

TITLE: Support of the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly
Recommendations for the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

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 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, through its unique relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Education Departments and Agencies (TEDs/TEAs) are responsible for administering and implementing education priorities of tribal governments and are equal partners with state and federal education entities serving tribal students; and

WHEREAS, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is up for reauthorization and is the largest federal education law that serves tribal students; and

WHEREAS, all ESEA programs could do more to help tribal students by recognizing a role, or by enhancing the role, including in public school education, of TEDs/TEAs; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) is a national advocacy organization that represents TEDs/TEAs in law and policy issues effecting tribal sovereignty over education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports increasing the role of TEDs/TEAs in Indian education by increasing tribal eligibility for ESEA funding, and increasing authorization of tribal administration of ESEA programs; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports consultation between tribal governments, TEDNA, and Title VII Indian Education programs serving urban populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports TEDNA’s ESEA recommendations that will increase tribal eligibility for ESEA funding, increase the role of tribal governments in Indian education, intergovernmental education compacts and cooperative agreements, and increase partnerships between federal, state, and tribal entities serving tribal students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support TEDNA’s recommendations for the reauthorization of the ESEA; 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 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.

[Signature]
President

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Recording Secretary