Title: In support of Asking the Administration (the Office of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs) to Request Direct Funding for Tribal Education Departments in the President’s Annual Budget Request to Congress

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 and their way of life, 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, over 110 American Indian tribes today have Tribal Departments of Education (TEDs), and these TEDs serve tens of thousands of tribal students in all levels of schools and education programs across the country; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI has been very supportive generally of TEDs, and has advocated specifically in favor of creating and maintaining the two authorizations - one through the Office of Indian Education (OIE) in the Department of Education, and one through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Department of the Interior - for direct federal funding for TEDs in federal education legislation; and

WHEREAS, both authorizations for direct federal funding for TEDs are contained in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and
WHEREAS, for many years, NIEA has dutifully tracked the annual President’s Budget Request to Congress, and NIEA is aware that no Administration has ever requested direct federal funding for TEDs, either through the Office of Indian Education or the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, given the important role that TEDs play in improving Indian education for so many tribal students, and given that Congress has clearly recognized the importance of TEDs by providing authorizations for their appropriations, it is unacceptable that Administrations continue to not request funding for TEDs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request the Office of Indian Education and the US Department of Education to request funding for TEDs in the President’s Budget Request to Congress at the level of $5 million each for the Office of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to fund TEDs so that they can improve their services to tribal students; 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 at the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

Juana Majel, Recording Secretary