



## **2021 Virtual Annual Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 31**

#### **“IN SUPPORT OF TEACHING THE FULL AND ACCURATE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES”**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

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

**WHEREAS**, as of July 15, 2021, twenty-six states have introduced bills or taken steps to restrict instruction of the full and accurate history of the United States and to limit discussion of racism and sexism in the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, eleven states have enacted such bans, either through legislation or other avenues; and

**WHEREAS**, all students deserve access to an education that prepares them to thrive and fully exercise their social, political and economic rights in college, career and life; and

**WHEREAS**, attempts to silence or punish educators that refuse to omit or distort United States history undermines student success and opportunity in the classroom and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, all students deserve to see themselves reflected in the narrative of our nation; both as builders and as those who have been shut out; and

**WHEREAS**, equity, diversity, and inclusivity are essential for students to develop pride in their own cultural legacies, develop self-esteem, and awaken to the ideals embodied in the respect for the cultures of their neighbors, as well as in the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, education should promote recognition and celebration of individual and group differences and similarities in order to reduce racism, homophobia, ethnic and all other forms of prejudice, and discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the understanding of current American Indian and Alaska Natives today requires knowledge of tribal sovereignty based in factual history, the United States Constitution, land ownership, treaties, and the federal trust responsibility to tribal nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Education Association has endorsed the statements of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) that have challenged the actions of states that have passed legislation restricting educators from teaching full and accurate histories in the classroom; now

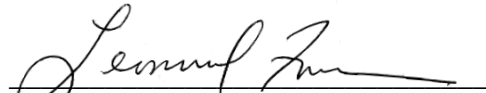
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI rejects any legislation or actions that limits the teaching of full and accurate history of the United States, especially as it relates to American Indian and Alaska Natives; and

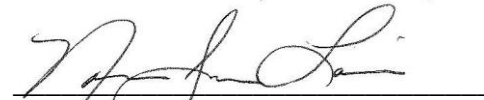
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI will take immediate action to engage with state, federal, and Native leaders to ensure educators are able to teach a full and accurate history of the United States, particularly as it relates to American Indians and Alaska Natives without threat or punishment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI shall recognize this resolution as policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on September 27-30, 2021, with a quorum present.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary