



## **2024 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #24 – 10**

#### **“CALL FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ACF) TRIBAL CONSULTATION”**

##### **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**, The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) was enacted in 1996 (PL-104-193), changing “welfare” as we once knew it, and replacing “Aid to Families with Dependent Children” (AFDC) entitlement program with the “Temporary Assistance to Needy Families” (TANF) program, which is a block grant to States; and

**WHEREAS**, Under the PRWORA, federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funding under section 412 of the Social Security Act, as amended by P.L. 104-193, to administer and operate their own TANF programs; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI has, for the past 19 years, maintained vigilance over Tribal TANF through its ATNI TANF Committee, which reports to the General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding of Tribal TANF comes through the federal government and, by law, also comes from states, through an 80% match (Maintenance of Effort – MOE) of the federal funds from which it funds tribal TANFs using the 80% MOE through negotiations of the Assistance Unit numbers with tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Congress, through numerous studies of state handling of Federal TANF and their own MOE funds, may force reduced funding to states and, thereby tribes, to correct the misuse of poverty funds to balance state budgets outside the four purposes of PRWORA; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Congress has mandated 6 states to research and develop program methodologies of controlling their own administrative and other costs of their TANF and MOE funds while providing greater service to its clients in poverty with penalties if they are not compliant; and

**WHEREAS**, The Administration for Children and Families states that tribal TANFs will not be affected by changes made to State TANF programs yet will be rule-making on those programs; now

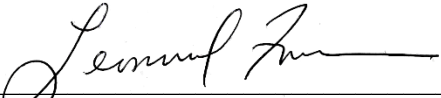
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI, calls on the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to engage in tribal Consultation on all federal and state negotiations and rule-making in the administration of PRWORA, as it may affect federally recognized Indian tribes and their Tribal TANF Programs; and

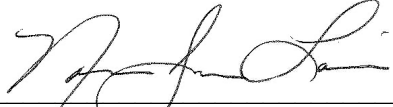
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in tribal consultation, the ATNI TANF Committee Co-Chairs be included in any and all State/Tribal TANF consultations; and

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

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency, Portland, OR, January 28 – February 31, 2024, with a quorum present.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary