



2024 Annual Convention Ridgefield, Washington

RESOLUTION #2024 – 30

“ENDORSE CREATION OF THE FUTURES FUND AND MANDATING FINANCIAL EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN WASHINGTON”

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 natural, 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, Native American youth suffer disproportionate economic hardship and income disparity as they become adults in America, challenges that are created and compounded by such varied causes as multigenerational trauma, inadequate and unequal access to education and social services, systemic racism in hiring and employment practices, police profiling and unequal law enforcement practices, and limited economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, tribal sovereignty is more equitably exercised if economic sovereignty is achievable for all tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, economic sovereignty is built upon a foundation of opportunity for tribal youth, who must be provided with the resources and opportunities to fulfill their dreams and build sustainable economic futures; and

WHEREAS, many Native American youth enter adulthood unequipped for the economic hardships they will face and the complex personal financial management responsibilities they will incur; and

WHEREAS, this lack of financial education can often have catastrophic personal impacts on Native American youth and their families, as they incur crippling debt and face serious legal and personal consequences from uninformed economic decisions; and

WHEREAS, aspiring Native American entrepreneurs often find themselves unable to pursue their dreams due to lack of starting capital and unequal access to commercial credit and loans from banks; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Treasurer, Michael Pellicciotti, has proposed policies that would mandate basic financial education be provided by all Washington high schools and be treated as a core graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Treasurer, Michael Pellicciotti, has also proposed to create the Washington Futures Fund, which would create “baby bonds” for eligible economically disadvantaged newborn Washingtonians that would invest \$4,000 for each child at birth, growing over time; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Futures Fund would make available the funds invested at a person’s birth and grown until their adulthood for the adult beneficiary’s use for down payments for a home, funding secondary education, or starting small businesses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington Futures Fund, if correctly administered, would have a positive impact on Native American youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the economic security and future prosperity of Native American youth is a major priority of the member Tribes of ATNI; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby endorses Treasurer Pellicciotti’s proposals to make financial education available and mandatory for high school students in Washington State.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, held at ilani Casino Resort, Ridgefield, Washington on September 29 – October 3, 2024 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary