



ATNI Annual 2025 Convention Suquamish, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 45

“ENSURING EFFECTIVE TRIBAL CONSULTATION ON AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPPORTING AMERICA’S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT (P.L. 118-258)”

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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments 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 Supporting America’s Children and Families Act (P.L. 118-258) bi-partisan legislation was enacted into law in January 2025 and provides Tribal Nations with new child welfare and court improvement funding, allows streamlining of administrative reporting requirements under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, requires the Administration for

Children and Families (ACF) under the Department of Health and Human Services to report to Congress how states are doing in implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), require ACF to provide technical assistance to Tribes and states to improve ICWA implementation, and publish guidance on how to improve engagement of Tribal Nations in state child welfare court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, ACF has begun in-person and virtual consultations with Tribal Nations on how to implement the requirements of the new law which started in August 2025 and will go through December 2025 with written comments due to ACF by January 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations worked closely with Congress for over two years on the development of Tribal provisions in the law and have informed insight into Congress's intent and expectations regarding implementation of the law; and

WHEREAS, critical to ensuring implementation provides full benefits to Tribal Nations is ensuring the key principles of the Indian Canons of Construction regarding interpretation of federal law that addresses Tribal Nations are carried out and reflected in any guidance or regulations that are promulgated; and

WHEREAS, areas of implementation that are of high importance to Tribal Nations include, 1) effective outreach to Tribal Nations on funding availability and timely disbursement of Title IV-B, Court Improvement, and other grant funds authorized under the law, 2) timely implementation of the AFCARS ICWA related data elements that can inform reports to Congress on state implementation of ICWA, and 3) development and delivery of technical assistance to Tribes and states regarding ICWA implementation that is Tribally driven and responsive to Tribal concerns; now

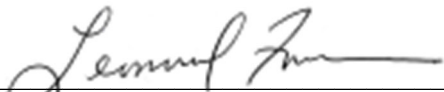
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI appreciates Administration for Children and Families (ACF)'s efforts to conduct Tribal consultation with Tribal Nations on implementation of the Supporting America's Children and Families Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI requests that ACF work closely with the ACF Tribal Advisory Committee in debriefing consultation sessions, discussing trends in information shared at consultations and how to accurately interpret the data, and discuss implications for implementation policy development; and

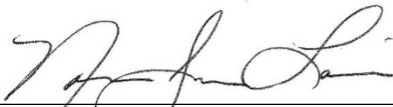
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary