



**ATNI Annual 2025 Convention
Suquamish, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 46

**“SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE TRIBAL CHILD
WELFARE FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL CHILD
WELFARE PROGRAMS”**

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, Tribal Nations receive less than one percent of all federal funds disbursed for child welfare purposes and often face significant barriers to the efficient and effective administration of federal child welfare programs in Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, some larger federal programs that fund state child welfare services, such as the Title XX Social Services Block Grant, do not fund Tribal Nations despite Native populations being used to determine state allocations; and

WHEREAS, a number of federal child welfare programs that fund Tribal Nations provide very small amounts of funding, often below \$10,000 per year, or only fund a small number of Tribes. This includes Title IV-B Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program, and Tribal Court Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, many of the federal child welfare programs that fund Tribal Nations contain requirements that are barriers to the effective and efficient administration of these programs, including the Title IV-E Prevention Services program and the Title IV-B programs; and

WHEREAS, despite these barriers to accessing and administering federal child welfare program funds, many Tribes are achieving outcomes, such as reducing foster care placements and lowering the number of families that have multiple entries into the child welfare system, that well exceed the results of state child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, the Native Children’s Commission, a bi-partisan commission that studied programs, grants, and supports available to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians from birth through age 24 and made recommendations about how this overall system could be strengthened, improved, and transformed, produced a report entitled, “The Way Forward” that documented many of the barriers for Tribal Nations in accessing and administering federal child welfare funding and provided recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, has developed a discussion draft that contains legislative provisions to address a number of federal child welfare funding and administration barriers for Tribes that were identified in “The Way Forward” report; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI supports legislative provisions that increase federal child welfare funding for Tribal Nations and address barriers to administration of federal child welfare programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI specifically supports provisions that


- 1) make Tribal Nations eligible to directly receive Title XX Social Services Block Grant funding,
- 2) increase funding for Tribal Nations under the Tribal Court Improvement program,
- 3) increase Tribal funding under the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs,
- 4) increase funding under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program,
- 5) allow Tribes to operate only the Title IV-E Prevention Services program without also having to operate the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs, and

6) provide streamlining of administrative requirements under Title IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act; and

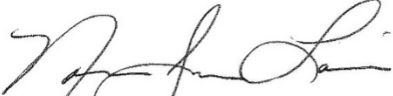
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

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