



2026 Midyear Convention Ferndale, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 027

“SUPPORTING THE INTRODUCTION AND SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE PROMOTING STRONG NATIVE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACT”

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, 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 Promoting Strong Native Families and Children Act would provide critical, life-saving services that protect Tribal citizen children, elders, victims of family

violence, and individuals with disabilities from harm who are living both on and off Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, despite Congress’s efforts over the last three decades to expand Tribal Nations’ eligibility for federal social services program funding, Tribal Nations still lack access to key federal social services programs—hampering Tribal Nations ability to provide basic protective services for vulnerable citizens, improve self-sufficiency, and increase effectiveness and efficiency of their programs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would 1) increase and expand Tribe’s access to flexible funding under the Social Security Act, 2) improve support for permanent homes for Tribal children who cannot return home safely to their parents, 3) remove barriers to Tribal grant access and administration by allowing reasonable modifications to program and administrative requirements, and 4) support state efforts to collaborate with Tribal Nations to ensure Tribal children in out-of-home placements are regularly visited by their caseworkers; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the legislation would 1) increase the Tribal set-aside funding under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act to 5%, 2) increase Tribal Court Improvement Program funding to \$5 million annually, 3) clarify Title IV-B funds are eligible to support and facilitate Tribal customary adoptions for Tribal children, 4) provide the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services authority to waive or modify Title IV-B matching requirements and allow Tribal Nations to use their federally negotiated indirect rates to meet administrative requirements, 5) establish a 5% Tribal set-aside under the Social Services Block Grant under Title XX of the Social Security Act, 6) remove barriers to Tribal participation in the Title IV-E Prevention Services program, and 7) assist states in meeting federal caseworker visiting requirements by promoting Tribal-state collaboration that allows states to include Tribal caseworker visits; and

WHEREAS, every day, Tribal Nations are on the front lines working to prevent harm and support victims impacted by child abuse and neglect, family violence, and other forms of mistreatment; and

WHEREAS, yet these essential Tribal services often operate without the full federal support provided to states, while being required to meet many of the same program and administrative requirements; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations need additional access to flexible federal funding to bolster key services and expand successful programs; and

WHEREAS, the Promoting Strong Native Families and Children Act helps address these gaps and barriers by establishing greater parity access for Tribal Nations and by providing resources tailored to local community needs and solutions that only Tribal Nations can deliver; and

WHEREAS, together, the provisions in the Promoting Strong Native Families and Children Act 1) expand Tribal access to federal human services funding by \$94 million, 2)

ensure grant amounts better reflect the true costs of administration and community needs 3) strengthen collaboration among states and Tribes when Native children are placed in out-of-home care in state child welfare systems, and 4) support Tribes in effectively meeting program and administrative requirements that align with real-world operational conditions in Tribal communities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the introduction and passage of the Promoting Strong Native Families and Children Act by Congress to support robust Tribal social services programs and Tribal court systems—ensuring Tribal communities can continue to effectively provide for the safety and well-being of their Tribal citizen children, elders, victims of violence, and individuals with disabilities for generations to come; and

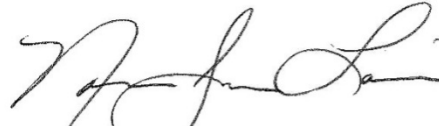
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Midyear Convention held at the Silver Reef Casino Resort in Ferndale, Washington, on May 17-21, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary