



2026 Annual Convention Snoqualmie, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 041

“ADDRESSING POLICY BARRIERS TO TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IN TITLE IV-E PREVENTION 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, 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, Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, which has programs available to states and Tribes to fund foster care placement, adoption assistance, subsidized guardianship for relative care, and prevention services, provides access to these programs through either an

intergovernmental agreement between a Tribe and a state or direct application to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for approval to operate the program; and

WHEREAS, each of these methods provide unique challenges for Tribal Nations that want to administer the Title IV-E programs, including high levels of non-federal match required and intensive program requirements that necessitate significant administrative capacity to stay in compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Title IV-E Prevention Services program allows Tribal Nations to secure reimbursement for prevention services that can prevent removal of children from their homes or help them return home safely; and

WHEREAS, a policy barrier for Tribes with less infrastructure or administrative capacity is ACF's interpretation that in order for Tribal Nations to operate the Title IV-E Prevention Services program, the Tribe must also operate the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs, which are much more administratively intensive; and

WHEREAS, operating the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs are unnecessary for many Tribal Nations because they have existing agreements with state or county child welfare systems to provide foster care or adoption assistance services to Tribal children and families on Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, allowing Tribal Nations to operate the Title IV-E Prevention Services program as a stand-alone program would benefit Native children in both Tribal and state child welfare systems, as Tribal capacity to offer culturally appropriate prevention services would increase significantly, provide more resources to help Native children heal from trauma, reduce foster care placements, and strengthen families to help them avoid recurring entries into child welfare systems; now

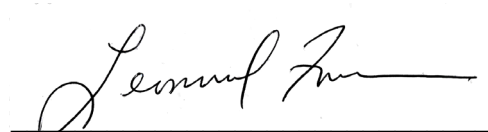
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on ACF to work with Tribal Nations to reinterpret the requirement that Tribal Nations must operate the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs in order to operate the Title IV-E Prevention Services program so that Tribal Nations can operate Title IV-E Prevention Services as a stand-alone program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be advanced to the National Congress of American Indians; 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 Annual Convention held at the Snoqualmie Casino and Hotel in Snoqualmie, Washington, on September 13-17, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary