



2026 Annual Convention Snoqualmie, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 043

“SUPPORT FOR TIMELY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE INTEGRATION OF INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA) DATA IN THE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS AND REPORTING SYSTEM”

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 Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published a final rule in 2024 requiring states to collect and report data on Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases involving Native children and families in state child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, the data elements contained in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) final rule were a monumental decision to establish the first federal data elements capable of providing detailed information on ICWA implementation and outcomes for Native children and families in state child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, data elements in the 2024 final rule align with ICWA requirements and enable Tribes, states, and federal agencies to gain a more detailed understanding of service trends and outcomes—such as efforts to prevent removal, support reunification, track out-of-home placements, and identify barriers to achieving permanency for Native children; and

WHEREAS, thirty years without specific data that focuses on the unique needs and political status of Native children has contributed significantly to the inability to improve outcomes for Native children and families in state child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, collection of the first ICWA data sets in AFCARS is scheduled to begin in October 2028 and ACF has not shared how they will support Tribes and states in the development, collection, submission, and utilization of this data in meeting statutory requirements to provide regular reports to Congress on state ICWA compliance; and

WHEREAS, collecting this data is a necessary step to begin addressing the persistent challenges facing Native children in state child welfare systems and strengthening collaboration between states and Tribes to provide a more transparent and accountable child welfare system that ensures Native children and families are afforded the protections of ICWA and ultimately improve outcomes for Native children; now

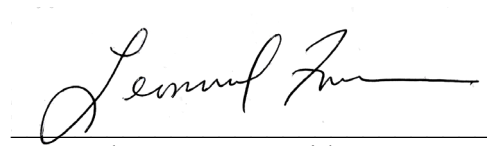
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) promptly share their plans and schedule to implement the 2024 final rule, and how states and Tribes can access technical assistance that supports states and Tribes working collaboratively to implement the data elements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be advanced to the National Congress of American Indians; and

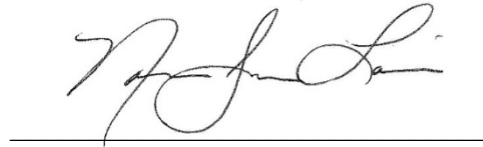
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

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