



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Mid-Year Conference Shelton, Washington

RESOLUTION #07 - 29

"WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE CODES ON TRIBAL TANF"

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

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) provides flexible programs for our Indian/Native people so that they can return to self-sufficiency and productive employment while preserving their dignity and culture; and

WHEREAS, the ANTI TANF Committee is charged with providing information to ATNI Tribal TANF's and Tribal Governments that protect and enhance tribal TANF programs; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Administration of Children and Families authorizes TANF grants to the States and to tribal governments known as Tribal TANF's grantees and there are 53 grantees in 12 states, of that total, 22 tribal TANF's are located in the 7 states in the ATNI tribal area, and of the total 22 tribal TANF's, 11 tribal TANF grantees are located in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, when any TANF grantee in any of the 7 ATNI states may be impacted by any state action or negotiations that may affect the effectiveness of the grantee to provide the best or comparable services as the state, then ATNI must review those actions and how they not only impact that grantee/state relationship and to make certain that precedence is not set in global TANF; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington Department of Health and Social Services (DSHS) which dispenses TANF through a program called WorkFirst, and the State is now proposing to develop Washington Administrative Codes (WAC) on Tribal TANF, and that such public discourse is to begin in mid-July 2007; and

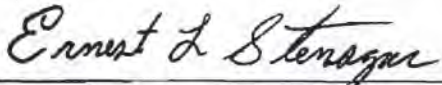
WHEREAS, the tribes are concerned that the Washington Administrative Codes may be designed to restrict the flexibility of Tribal TANF funding as provided for under the Social Security Act of 1996, and may be designed to defund Tribal TANF's and unduly burden Tribal TANF's; now

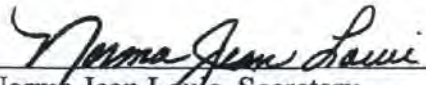
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby requests of The Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington, that the DSHS provide full disclosure of its proposed WAC's on Tribal TANF's to the tribes that administer TANF's and no policy evolve from meetings between DSHS officials and staffs with tribal TANF directors and staff; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that no WAC's be adopted by DSHS without full consultation with the elected officials of the Tribes of Washington.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, Washington on May 24, 2007, with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary