

**2009 Mid-Year Conference
Reno, Nevada**

RESOLUTION #09 - 44

**“ESTABLISH A NATIONAL TRIBAL TITLE IV-E FOSTER CARE
IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE ”**

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, ATNI 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2008 the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351) was enacted into law giving tribes direct access to the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act program for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the Title IV-E program is the federal government's largest child welfare program and provides funding for foster care, guardianship and adoptive placement services; and

WHEREAS, because this is the first time that the program has been available to all tribes and because the program has many complex requirements there are many serious challenges to ensuring that implementation meets tribal needs; and

WHEREAS, the federal agency overseeing implementation of Title IV-E with tribes, the Children's Bureau, has limited experience working with tribal governments and has previously demonstrated a need for more complete understanding of tribal program development; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Bureau is moving quickly to implement the Title IV-E program with tribes and many tribes have expressed concerns that the process for implementation needs more tribal input, both short and long term; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs also has an important role in implementing Title IV-E in tribal communities, in particular the way in which their BIA Social Service funds support implementation of tribal Title IV-E programs; and

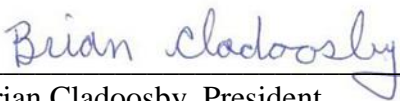
WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has been working closely with tribes and Indian organizations regarding the implementation of the tribal Title IV-E program and is developing resources to assist tribes in their education and decision making process; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request that NCAI establish a Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Implementation Task Force to help provide support to tribal governments and guidance to relevant federal agencies on the implementation of the Title IV-E program in Indian Country; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that the Task Force have regional representation from Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Silver Legacy Casino, Reno, Nevada on May 18-21, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary