



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 55

“SUPPORT FOR WASHINGTON STATE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT LEGISLATION”

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, American Indian and Alaskan Native children are disproportionately represented in the state foster care system and there is continued evidence of uneven compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and Washington Tribal/State (ICWA); and

WHEREAS, in response representatives from tribes and urban Indian organizations in Washington have developed a draft state ICWA bill for introduction in the 2010 Washington State legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the draft legislation would codify the federal ICWA and provisions of the Washington Tribal/State ICWA; and

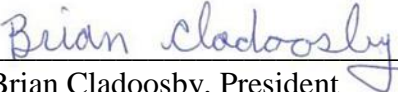
WHEREAS, codification of the existing Washington/Tribal State ICWA and federal ICWA will help reinforce compliance with these policies as demonstrated in other states with state ICWA laws; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians does support the introduction and passage of the draft state ICWA legislation; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI requests tribal leaders in the state of Washington to designate representatives from their tribes to participate in the legislative process to help support and ensure passage of this important legislation for American Indian and Alaskan Native children and families.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, Washington on September 21-24, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary