



2011 Annual Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #11 - 53

“H.R. 1891 OPPOSITION TO THE SETTING NEW PRIORITIES IN EDUCATION SPENDING ACT”

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, Executive Orders, 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 to 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/Alaska Natives and tribes 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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports education efforts that increase the opportunity for Indian students, families, tribes, and communities to improve their lives economically, academically, socially, and culturally; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a federal trust responsibility to educate Native Americans through the provision of funding, programs, and other assistance; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1891 Setting New Priorities in Education Act would eliminate the Alaska Native Education Program and the Native Hawaiian Education Program on the grounds that these programs are wasteful and ineffective in an attempt to balance the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, the implication that funds used to educate Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students is considered 'wasteful spending' is wrong because spending on education, and Native education in particular, is an investment in the future and a right that our children deserve; and

WHEREAS, data and research support the conclusion that Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian education programs are successful in improving student achievement, teacher performance, community engagement, cultural awareness, and a strong Native identity; and

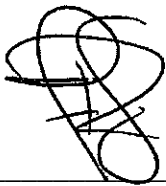
WHEREAS, an attack on Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian programs sets a risky precedent that could lead to the same damaging cuts to American Indian education programs;

WHEREAS, opposition of H.R. 1891 rejects the viewpoint that spending money on educating Native youth is "wasteful"; supports the many Native programs that have produced proven achievement results; and considers spending on education as an investment in our future, rather than a drain on our economy; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby oppose H.R. 1891 Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act, introduced by Representative Duncan Hunter from California.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, Washington, September 19-22, 2011 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary