



2013 Winter Convention Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #13 - 15

“URGE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS TO INTRODUCE INDIAN EDUCATION LEGISLATION AND PRIORITIZE OVERSIGHT OF INDIAN EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION”

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, tribal based education of Native children is a high priority and an essential foundation in the building of Indian Nations and economic growth in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, education is a trust responsibility of the federal government and is administered primarily through the Department of Education (DoE) and the Department of Interior (DoI); and

WHEREAS, a Trust Corpus exists for education in the DoE and DoI that has measurable Trust standards including academic achievement, college/career readiness, quality of instruction, facilities and so forth; and

WHEREAS, Congressional oversight of the federal governments' trust obligation for education is appropriately facilitated by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA); and

WHEREAS, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), titled as the "No Child Left Behind" is up for reauthorization in the 113th Congress and the Indian Education Act of 1972 is contained in the ESEA as Title VII; and

WHEREAS, tribal leaders, Indian educators, regional and national Indian organizations supported, in the 112th Congress, a stand alone Indian Education Bill titled, "Native CLASS Act" that was built on a strong cultural based education; and

WHEREAS, as the 113th Congress resumes, it is essential that the SCIA provide both Congressional oversight of Indian education and a venue to advance a statutory conduit to improve Indian education; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby urges the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, chaired by Senator Maria Cantwell, to prioritize the introduction of Indian education legislation and the oversight of Indian education administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ATNI advocates that SCIA conduct a series of Hearings and Listening Sessions with a focus on Indian education budgets, administration of Indian education, implementation of the White House Initiative on Indian Education, and needed introduction of new Indian education legislation.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, on January 28 – 31, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary