



2013 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #13 – 58

"IDENTIFICATION OF NATIVE STUDENTS"

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, the Title VII, Indian Education program was enacted in the early 1970's under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act with the purpose to address the culturally

related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students at the K-12th grade levels; and

WHEREAS, federal funding administered under the U.S. Department of Education for the Title VII Indian Education programs is generated with 506 Forms, in which parents identify their students as Native American or Alaskan Native and provide proof of tribal enrollment of either the student(s), parents or grandparents; and

WHEREAS, recently the Seattle School District disallowed and refused to accept Tlingit and Haida students in the Title VII Indian Education program by “throwing out” the required 506 Forms that included enrollment numbers, simply because parents did not write in the official name of the tribe (for example, the name Tlingit on the 506 Form would be rejected by the school district because the parents did not expressly write in *Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*); and

WHEREAS, this capricious action taken by the school district unreasonably and unfairly penalizes Native students of a culture based education by a reduction in funding, limited student services and has negatively impacted the Native community; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ATNI hereby urges the U.S. Department of Education to consult with American Indian/Alaska Native communities to ensure the standards of the Title VII Indian Education program are consistently applied and implemented fairly in the application of program services; and

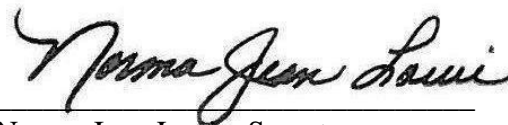
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the American Indian/Alaska Natives are the ultimate authority of their tribal membership and must be afforded the opportunity to ensure their rights and privileges as tribal members are valued in perpetuity.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 13th - 16th, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary