



2014 Winter Convention Ferndale, WA

RESOLUTION #14 - 02

“SUPPORT OF S. 1948, NATIVE LANGUAGE IMMERSION STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT 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, Senator John Tester, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) Chairman, introduced S.1948 titled the “Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act” and declared Indian education and this proposed legislation as one of his top legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports education goals that increase Native language immersion instruction, cultural based education, and opportunities that supports tribes and communities economically, academically, socially, and culturally; and

WHEREAS, ATNI through previous resolutions (#10-45 in Spokane 2010), (#11-54 in Tulalip 2011), (#11-75 in Tulalip 2011), and (# 13-15 Grand in Mound 2013) supports Immersion school support through the U.S. Department of Education and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Education Association, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, United Tribes of North Dakota, Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Alliance to Save Native Languages support Chairman Tester's Native Language Immersion School Achievement Act; and

WHEREAS, extensive consultation between the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education has documented tribal leader testimony and Indian educator support of Immersion schools and inclusion of Native language provisions supporting Immersion schools in the ESEA reauthorization; now

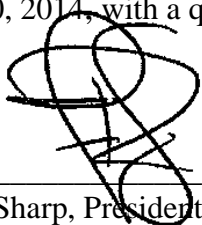
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports S. 1948, the “Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act”, introduced by SCIA Chairman John Tester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the Congressional Delegations of the ATNI member tribes to support S. 1948, the “Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act”; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to hold hearings on this important bill and Indian education to ensure collaboration with the Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) to prioritize the inclusion of S. 1948 provisions within the HELP Committee's reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2014 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Silver Reef Hotel Casino Spa, Ferndale, WA on February 17 - 20, 2014, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary