



2015 Annual Convention Spokane, Washington

RESOLUTION #15 - 54

“FULL FEDERAL FUNDING OF TRIBAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)”

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 ATNI Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANFs) represent over 30% of the total tribal TANF programs in the United States including states that contribute at least a 60% Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funds to the tribes, as well as States whose MOE funding to tribally TANF programs are less than 20% of their MOE; and

WHEREAS, the tribal TANFs clients are among the most difficult to serve clients due to a high rate of unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence and other social issues; and

WHEREAS, tribal populations lack in opportunities for education and vocational training, especially due to their remote locations; and

WHEREAS, the tribal TANFs of our nations are located in areas where populations cannot support industry, no matter how small; and

WHEREAS, even where commerce is possible, jobs are lost in the smallest shifts to economic instability; and

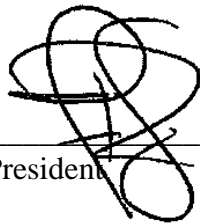
WHEREAS, States are not sharing their Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds with tribal TANFs while using their MOE funds as appropriated by their legislatures for other purposes and leaving the full burden of client services for tribal TANF programs, whose clients were transferred from State TANF; and

WHEREAS, States continue to treat tribes as contractors rather than as partners in the service of offering temporary assistance to needy families and thereby imposing regulations that are contrary to the flexibility of program management guaranteed to the tribes by the law and by presidential executive orders; now

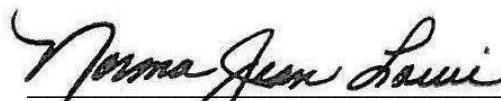
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby calls upon Congress to fully fund tribal TANF programs throughout the United States.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Spokane, Washington on September 14-17, 2015, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary