

**The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL  
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE INTER-TRIBAL  
COUNCIL OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

NUMBER 96-09

Support for Restoration of Funding to American Indian/  
Alaska Native Education Appropriations

**WHEREAS,**

the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 300,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

**WHEREAS,**

through federal treaty, established policy and legal precedent, the United States Government has acknowledged its trust responsibility to promote the academic education of Indian people; and

**WHEREAS,**

The United States Constitution specifically defines the powers of the Federal Government with regard to the Tribal/Federal relationship; and

**WHEREAS,**

The American Indian was identified as the “Last American” in every socio-economic category by President Nixon, prompting his administration to establish and “era of self-determination for Indian people”; and

**WHEREAS,**

The Clinton Administration has expressed its support and recognition of the sovereignty of the Indian Nations before tribal leaders at the White House; and

**WHEREAS,**

Proposals now considered by Congress ignore the federal trust obligation and would delegate federal responsibility to individual states and return Indian Nations to abject poverty by denying them access to adequate educational opportunity including tribal cultural and language programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does hereby call upon the Congress of the United States and the Clinton Administration to honor the Nation’s treaty obligations to act upon and reaffirm their trust responsibility to Indian Nations by taking affirmative measures to sufficiently fund educational programs, established or to be established, for the benefit of Indian people, including tribal schools, colleges, tribal education departments, scholarship programs and tribal education consortiums.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports the restoration of funding to the following:

1. The Office of Indian Education at FY 1995 levels for discretionary grant programs such as Adult Education, fellowships, teacher training, program development and formula grants and the national Advisory Council on Indian Education;
2. Funding in the Department of Education at FY 1995 levels for Impact Aid and Title I.
3. Opposes cuts to PELL grants, Perkins loans and any other higher educational grants;
4. Opposes cuts to the Johnson O’Malley Program within the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior. JOM should be funded at \$200.00 per student.

**CERTIFICATION**

**ADOPTED** by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting held at Wagoner, Oklahoma on January 12, 1996 by a vote of 25 for, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Joe Byrd Signed  
Joe Byrd, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

Greg E. Pyle Signed for  
Hollis Roberts, Chief  
Choctaw Nation

Perry Beaver Signed  
Perry Beaver, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Jerry Haney Signed  
Jerry Haney, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
Chickasaw Nation