

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

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

NUMBER 96-10

Opposition to “English-Only” Legislation

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,

The health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural land natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes; and

WHEREAS,

The federal government of the United States has a unique relationship with Native American governments who have an interest in preserving and enhancing their languages to ensure the survival and continued vitality of their precious and ancient tongues; and

WHEREAS,

The United States Congress has introduced legislation declaring English as the official language of the Government of the United States; and

WHEREAS,

Native American languages have been used by the United States government in defending America and its citizens; and

WHEREAS,

Studies indicate that the more than half of indigenous languages of the United States are considered “endangered” and many have only a handful of speakers at the end of this century.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes actively opposes the passage of legislation to amend the United States Code to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States as well as efforts which would effectively end bilingual education programs in this country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes will continue to actively support the maintenance, promotion, preservation, study, teaching, artistic use and survival of the Native languages of the United States and to oppose legislation

which works to prevent or hinder the maintenance, promotion, preservation, study, teaching, artistic use and survival of the Native languages of the United States.

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 23 for, 2 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