

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

Resolution No. 2002-10

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSFER OF THE HEAD START
PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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 400,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and;

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has proposed a potential move of the Head Start program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Head Start Director's Association and its counterpart, the National Head Start Association and the National Indian Education Association has opposed transferring this office out of its present location; and

WHEREAS, tribal Head Start programs, as with their non-Indian counterparts, focus on health and social needs of impoverished children, their families and their communities, and

WHEREAS, tribal Head Start programs have a proven record of enhancing academic readiness and self worth of Indian children; and

WHEREAS, tribal Head Start programs provide a unique opportunity to enhance cultural pride and knowledge through the promotion of tribal values and tribal language immersion programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services has made a strong commitment to tribal Head Start programs and their unique needs; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Department has been proactive in its consultation process with tribes and grantees of tribal Head Start programs; and

WHEREAS, tribal Head Start programs may lose autonomy on programs and curriculum development which may include possible infringement on tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Head Start programs for Indian students may be subject to the same bureaucratic obstacles experienced by other Indian education programs within the Department of Education.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does hereby affirm and support the position of the aforementioned national organizations; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes advocates that Secretary Thompson retain Head Start program under his agency; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the Bush Administration to maintain the standing of Head Start programs within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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CERTIFICATON

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on April 12, 2002 by a vote of 22 FOR, 0 OPPOSED, and 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Chadwick Smith Signed
Chadwick Smith, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Greg E. Pyle Signed
Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation

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

Jerry Haney Signed
Jerry Haney, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation