

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Encouraging the Oklahoma State Legislature to Strengthen Protections of our Native Children through the Indian Child Welfare Act

Resolution No. 14-01



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gregory Pyle
Principal Chief



George Tiger
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, our Indian Children are our most precious and valuable resource; and,

WHEREAS, failures to comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) lead to the heartbreaking case of Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Indian children and Indian families that the state require that a parent wait at least 72 hours after the birth of a child to execute valid consent to the adoption or permanent relinquishment of a child; and,

WHEREAS, to further protect Indian children, putative fathers should not be able to execute extrajudicial consent to waive all legal interest in a child before the child is born, and should instead wait until the child is at least 72 hours old; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services currently contracts the administration of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) to a private entity that has a financial interest in facilitating the adoptions of Oklahoma children; and,

WHEREAS, it is an unacceptable danger to Indian children and conflict of interest for the ICPC to be administered by any entity or individual, public or private, that has any direct or indirect financial interest in facilitating adoptions in this state or any other state; and,

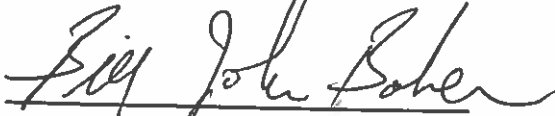
WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature may protect Indian children by amending state laws pertaining to these issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes encourages the Oklahoma State Legislature to enact legislation to protect Indian children and strengthen Oklahoma Adoption laws.

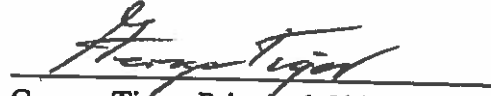
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

CERTIFICATION

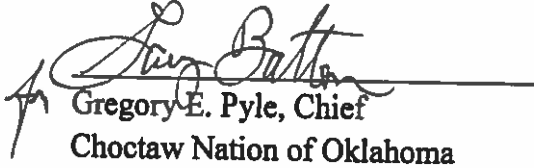
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Shawnee, Oklahoma on this 10th day of January, 2014, by a vote of 21 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



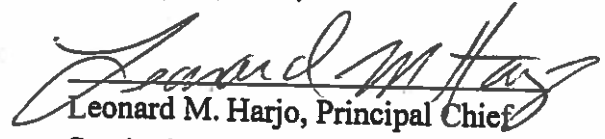
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



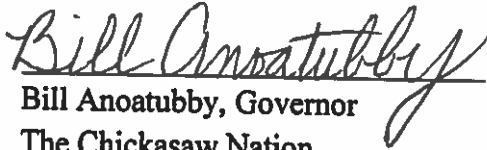
George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation