



A Resolution In Support of Senator Heidi Heitkamp's (D-ND) Legislation, Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission On Native Children; And Commending Senator Heidi Heitkamp's Efforts

Resolution No. 14-09



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, Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) has introduced a bill that is titled the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission On Native Children Act (S.1622); and,



WHEREAS, Alyce Spotted Bear was the former Chairwoman of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation in North Dakota and an advocate for Native children and recognized leader in education; and,



WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Soboleff was a statesman for the Tlingit Tribe in Alaska, and was the first Native appointed by the Governor to be the Chairman of the Alaska State Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed bill is the first piece of legislation that Senator Heitkamp introduced since she has taken the oath of office; and,

WHEREAS, By this action, the Senator has shown her dedication to Indian Country and Native children; and,

WHEREAS, Said bill would establish a commission that would be required to conduct a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs that serve Native Children; and,

WHEREAS, The commission would examine the unique challenges Native children face and make recommendations on how to improve the current systems by building on the strengths of Native communities; and,

WHEREAS, Native American children are the most at-risk population in the country, with child mortality rates increasing 15% since 2000; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby commends Senator Heidi Heitkamp and offers full support of the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission On Native Children Act (S.1622).

CERTIFICATION

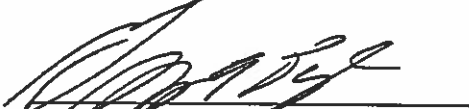
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 11th day of April, 2014, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



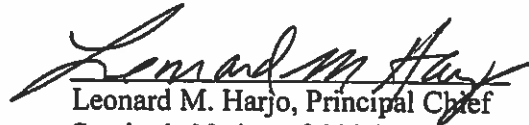
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



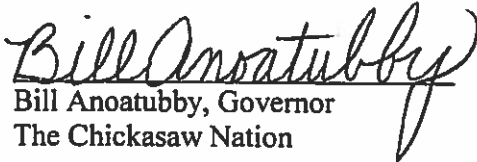
George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation