

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Efforts to Promote Truth, Justice and Healing by a Full Investigation of the Indian Boarding School Era

Resolution No. 22-13



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
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 approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, for more than 150 years, hundreds of thousands of Native American children were taken from their homes, families, communities and Tribal Nations and forced to attend federal government supported Indian boarding schools; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, these schools were part of a policy of cultural assimilation and genocide, and they produced long-lasting harms including the loss of Native languages and cultures; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, many children that were taken from their families and Tribal Nations died at the boarding schools, and in many cases these children were never returned home to their loved ones and often their families were never notified of their deaths; and

WHEREAS, the first Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report by the U.S. Department of the Interior has begun to shed light on the schools; the report has identified marked or unmarked burial sites at approximately 53 different schools across the school system, and, as the investigation continues, the Department expects the number of identified burial sites to increase; and



Lewis J. Johnson
Chief

WHEREAS, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act has been introduced as H.R. 5444 in the U.S. House and S. 2907 in the U.S. Senate, to create a Congressional Commission that will help further ensure a full and complete review of: the total number of Native children forced to attend Indian boarding schools; the total number of Native children who were abused, died or went missing at Indian boarding schools; and the long-term impacts that Indian boarding schools have had on the children who attended and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Biden administration fully supports this effort to study the Indian boarding school era, and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said she views the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act as complementary to the investigation being undertaken at the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, a full accounting of the Indian boarding schools era is necessary to advance truth, justice and healing for the Native American communities and Tribal Nations that were severely harmed by these policies.

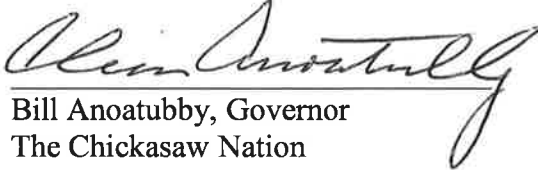
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

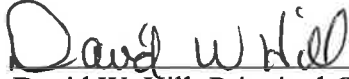
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act and President Biden to sign it into law.

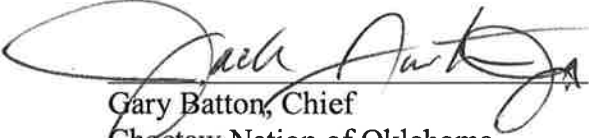
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council urges Congress and the federal government to continue bringing accountability for the harms of Indian boarding schools through greater funding and policies that restore health, prosperity and self-determination to Native American families, communities and Tribes.


CERTIFICATION

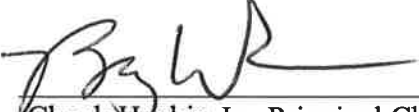
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 15th day of July, 2022, by a vote of All in favor for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation