

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution To Address Oklahoma Executive Order 2023-01, Addressing the Formation of the Child Welfare Task Force*

### Resolution No. 23-02



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, and Seminole Nations, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**WHEREAS,** the landmark Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) was enacted to prevent the unnecessary breakup of Native families; and

**WHEREAS,** ICWA has been labeled “the gold standard” of child welfare policy by experts and national leading child advocacy organizations far beyond Indian Country; and



Gary Bolton  
Chief

**WHEREAS,** sixty percent of Native Children in OKDHS custody belong to the Five Civilized Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** a significant percentage of all children in Oklahoma child welfare custody are Indian children; and

**WHEREAS,** a majority Indian children in OKDHS custody are eligible through relationships with the Five Civilized Tribes; and



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** the Pinnacle Plan was identified as pivotal to improving the state child welfare system and included tribal representation; and

**WHEREAS,** the State of Oklahoma and the Five Civilized Tribes have entered into inter-governmental ICWA agreements for the protection of our children and tribal input is imperative.



Lewis J. Johnson  
Chief

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes strongly supports the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes believes ICWA, as a pillar of sovereignty, must be fiercely protected.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports all Native American children in Oklahoma as they seek to uphold ICWA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports the addition of tribal voices on the Child Welfare Task Force, through tribal representation comprised of twenty-five percent of the twelve identified Task Force members as tribal representatives. As reflected by the percentages of Tribal children in custody, we request two members be identified from the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes and two representatives from the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare

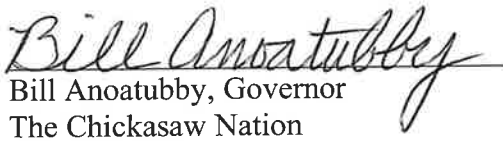
# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

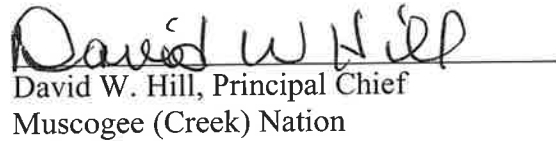
Association. One to be the president of the association and one to be designated by the general membership of that association, as designees on Governor Stitt's proposed Oklahoma Executive Order 2023-01.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the tribal voices on the Child Welfare Task Force shall be full members, in addition to the other members of the Task Force.

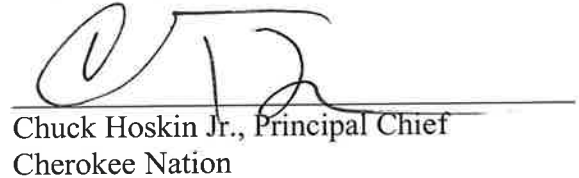
## CERTIFICATION

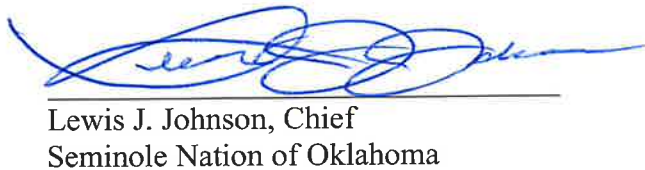
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 13th day of January, 2023, by a vote of All for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

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

  
Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma