

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting the Bipartisan Bills Promoting Truth, Justice and Healing by a Full Investigation of the Indian Boarding School Era*

### Resolution No. 24-10



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Bolton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson  
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 Nation, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** as tribal nations, we exercise unique sovereign rights of self-government and continuing government-to-government relationships with the United States, founded on our distinct histories, languages, cultures and identities that have been fiercely protected against government policies intended to eradicate our existence as distinct peoples; and

**WHEREAS,** for more than 150 years, Native Americans were taken from their homes, families, and tribal communities and forced to attend federal government supported Indian boarding schools; and

**WHEREAS,** those schools were used as part of a policy of cultural assimilation and genocide that produced everlasting harms to Native languages and cultures; and

**WHEREAS,** numerous native children taken from their families did not survive these boarding schools and in other cases many of these boarding school children never returned to their families and communities nor were the families ever notified of their deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of the Interior conducted the first Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report shedding light on the schools identifying marked or unmarked burial sites at more than 53 schools with 500 estimated student deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024 was introduced as H.R. 7227 in the U.S. House and S. 1723 in the U.S. Senate to establish a Congressional Commission for the purposes of: formally investigating, documenting, and reporting on the histories of Indian boarding schools, Indian boarding school policies, and the systemic and long-term effects of those schools and policies on Native Americans; developing recommendations for Federal participation based on the findings of the commission; and promoting the healing for survivors of Indian boarding schools, their descendants, and their communities; and

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**WHEREAS,** the Administration has fully supported the efforts to study the Indian boarding school era, and Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland viewed the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act as complimentary to the work being done through the boarding school investigations undertaken by the Department of the Interior; and

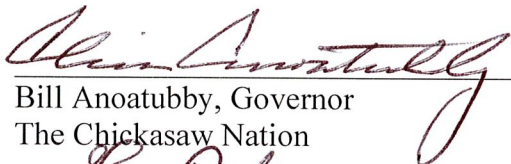
**WHEREAS,** a full accounting of the Indian boarding schools era is necessary to advance the truth, justice and healing for Native American communities and Tribal Nations that were severely harmed, and for far too long the stories of Native children stripped of their culture and families were hidden and this dark chapter must be brought to light.

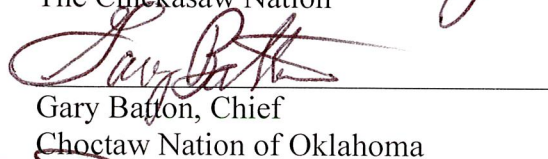
**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies Act of 2024 and President Biden to sign it into law.

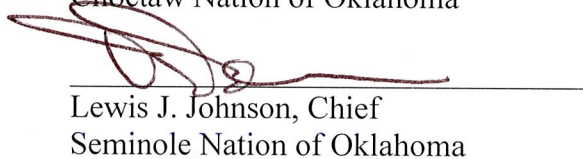
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress and the federal government to continue seeking accountability for the harms of Indian boarding schools through greater funding and policies that restore health, prosperity and self-determination Native American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

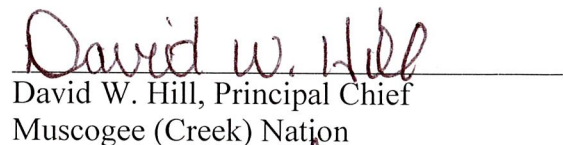
## CERTIFICATION

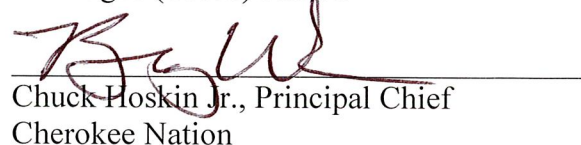
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 12th day of July, 2024, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

  
Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

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

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation