The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF OKLAHOMA HOUSE BILL 1034 AN ACT AMENDING THE OKLAHOMA CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT CURRENTLY INTRODUCED IN THE 55TH SESSION OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE LEGISLATURE

Resolution No. 15-11

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, the Inter-Tribal Council recognizes that Native Education continues to be in a state of emergency with disproportionately high dropout, low college entry, and low completion rates among Native students when compared with their non-Native peers; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council is an active community partner in providing quality education programs, services, and opportunities to citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council is a major supporter of children, youth and adults by providing pathways for education beginning at pre-K to earning doctorates; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council recognizes the need for native students to receive an education using nationally proven methods and curriculum specifically designed for the native children and youth because native stakeholders understand their children best and can better serve their students’ unique culturally related academic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council supports teaching children and youth in the traditional methods and welcome the opportunity provided by HB 1034 as charter schools would provide tribes the same educational accreditation as state and local education agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council should have the authority and opportunity for capacity building in administering education programs for their citizens and to ensure Native students’ needs are emphasized and addressed at the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council agrees to continue to develop and promote alliances with Department of Education Official
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groups, departments and agencies, as well as non-indigenous organizations, local, state and national governmental bodies, legislators, and academic institutions to promote understanding and support and advance policies that strengthen tribal self-governance in education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes recognizes and supports adoption of HB 1034 before the 55th Session of the Oklahoma Legislature.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 10th day of April, 2015, by a vote of _____ for _____ against and _____ abstentions.

Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

FOR
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation