

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief

A Resolution Declaring unequivocal support for the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Guidelines and Proposed Regulations Serve the Best Interests of Indian Children

Resolution No. 15-30



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

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,



Gary Batton
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 to combat the widespread abuse of the child welfare system through the wholesale removal of Indian children from their homes and communities; and



George Tiger
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, many adoption industry professionals and special interest groups have sought to undermine the Indian Child Welfare Act through legal and media attacks that ignore the sovereignty of tribal governments and the best interests of Indian children in favor of making more Indian children free for adoption by non-relatives and non-Indians; and



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, there is a long and shameful history in the United States of non-Indians seeking to remove Indian children from their families and their tribes by asserting that Indian people do not know what is best for Indian children; and

WHEREAS, all Indian children deserve an opportunity to grow up knowing their family history, participating in their culture and communities, and speaking the language of their tribe; and

WHEREAS, Indian people, represented by their tribal governments, are in the best position to determine what is in the best interest of Indian children; and

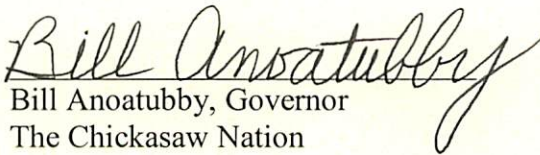
WHEREAS, the Indian Child Welfare Act gives Indian tribes and relatives a greater voice in the placement and care of Indian children; and

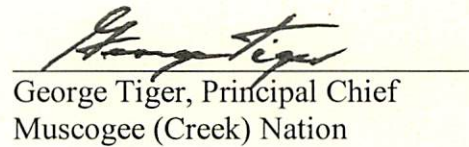
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ITC calls on all Indian tribes, national and regional organizations to support the efforts of the United States Department of Justice and the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") in their defense of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the BIA's Guidelines for State Courts on implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act's provisions; and

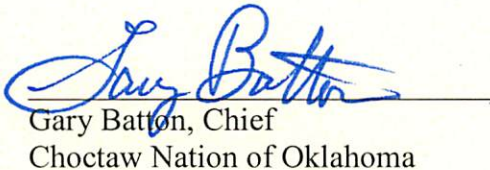
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ITC calls upon Congress, its authorizing committees, and the House Native American Caucus to exercise appropriate oversight on implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act, and to use all of the tools available to them, including hearings, briefings, and Dear Colleague letters to educate their colleagues on the effectiveness of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

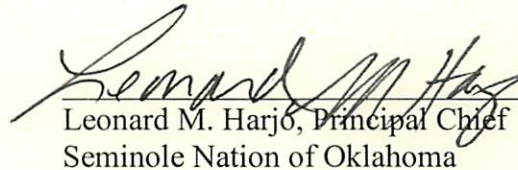
CERTIFICATION

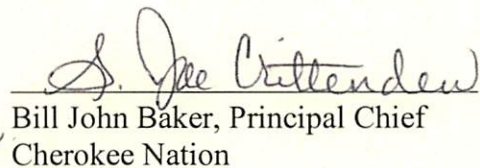
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 9th day of October, 2015, by a vote of all in favor 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

FOR 
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation