The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Funding for the Johnson O’Malley program in the FY19 Federal Budget and Urging Congress to Pass the Johnson-O’Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act (S. 943)

Resolution No. 18-08

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 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the federal Johnson-O’Malley (JOM) program is to provide the books, fees, equipment and other necessities that 798,486 Native children need, but would not otherwise be provided through school districts; and

WHEREAS, outdated and restrictive federal caps limit the number of students served to 278,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, American Indian population growth coupled with frozen federal funding has lead to a 21-year decline in per-pupil funding for the JOM program; and

WHEREAS, inaccurate student counts have prevented eligible students from receiving appropriate funding and support; and

WHEREAS, the FY18 federal budget only provided $15 million of the $42 million needed for the Johnson O’Malley program, and the President’s FY19 budget proposal would eliminate the program; and

WHEREAS, the Johnson-O’Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act (S.943) would establish a new baseline count of eligible Indian students for use in instituting a modern, more accurate and uniform allocation funding formula; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports full funding of the Johnson O’Malley program in the FY19 Federal budget; and let it be resolved further that;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests the United States House of Representatives to approve S.943, which would modernize the Johnson O’Malley program by providing accurate student counts and increased funding.
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 1st day of May, 2018, by a vote of 21 for 6 against and 6 abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation