The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Opposing the Elimination of the Indian and Native American Department of Labor Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Funding in the President’s FY 2019 Budget

Resolution No. 18-09

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 five Tribes of the Inter-Tribal Council have been operating Department of Labor Employment and Training Programs for over four decades; and

WHEREAS, the Indian and Native American population, as a whole, have the highest unemployment rate and lowest educational rate of any United States population; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2017 the five Tribes of the Inter-Tribal Council received a total of $4,268,920 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds from the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, these funds are necessary to provide Indian and Native Americans within our service areas the skills needed to enter and retain good employment with self-sustaining wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, these funds provide needed services to thousands of Indian and Native Americans, both youth and adult; and

WHEREAS, the information upon which this decision was based is seriously flawed, stating our programs are “unproven” and questioning why the “grantee cohorts have remained the same over the past decade” demonstrates a serious lack of familiarity with tribes, tribal organizations and Native Communities.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes opposes the elimination of Indian and Native American WIOA funding as presented in the President’s proposed FY 2019 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to reinstate WIOA funding at a level not less than $55 million dollars.
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 0 against and 0 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