

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting the Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative*

### Resolution No. 21-25



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal 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, and Muscogee (Creek), representing approximately 780,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**WHEREAS,** Schools for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian student hostages employed practices including assimilation, corporal punishments, and child labor, which were often carried out without law or policy, were adopted by the United States Government to strip American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children of their Indigenous identities, beliefs, and languages to assimilate them into non-Indian culture through federally funded, Christian denomination schools, which had the effect of cultural genocide; and



Gary Batton  
Chief

**WHEREAS,** Indian boarding schools were established through the Indian Civilization Fund Act of 1819 which was created to administer the education, healthcare, and rations promised to Tribal Nations under treaty law, and Grant's Peace Policy 1868 which opened the Civilization Funds to be used by churches; and



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** by 1926, nearly 83 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native school-age children were enrolled in Indian boarding schools in the United States, but because nearly 62 percent of the school records have been lost or destroyed, the full extent of the Indian Boarding School Policy has not been identified; and

**WHEREAS,** the deliberate intention of the law was the separation of Native American children from their families, cultures, and Tribal communities through removal, cutting their hair, taking their clothing and issuing uniforms, forbidding them to speak their language or engage in any cultural practices, and carrying out severe and often corporal punishments constituting, in many cases, physical, emotional and mental torture for non-compliance, including the sterilization of our children, as to this day, families are still mourning for the loss of their children and future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** Oklahoma is estimated to have the highest number of Indian Boarding Schools in the nation; and

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**WHEREAS,** on June 22, 2021, Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (Initiative), a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies; and

**WHEREAS,** the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative will serve as an investigation about the loss of human life and the lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools, the primary goal of which will be to identify boarding school facilities and sites, the location of known and possible student burial sites located at or near school facilities, and the identities and tribal affiliations of students interred at such locations; and if burial sites are identified the remains will be repatriated to their tribes and

**WHEREAS,** the work will proceed in several phases and include the identification and collection of records and information related to the Department of the Interior's own oversight and implementation of the Indian boarding school program with formal consultations with Tribal Nations.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does hereby support the Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, encourage meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations, and call upon Congress to fully fund the initiative; and

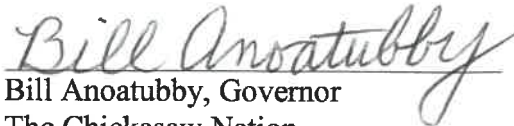
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the initiative to conduct non-destructive, non-invasive ground imaging of boarding schools to determine the number of students who died, the number of graves and to survey all federal repositories to find all ancestors and records; and

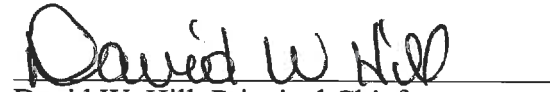
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests the U.S. Congress to approve the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act" which would build on the Department of the Interior's initiative; and


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## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

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

  
Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation