

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Swift Filling of Vacancies on the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education

Resolution No. 23-04

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 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, a large majority of primary school age citizens of our Tribal Nations attend public schools in Oklahoma, out of more than 130,000 American Indian students in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, strong partnerships between Tribal Nations, Tribal Education Departments, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education are essential for ensuring that Native American students have access to learning materials and other educational supports reflecting their unique Tribal cultures and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, these strong partnerships are necessary to ensure best use of the Federal dollars and Tribal contributions to Oklahoma public schools intended to support the advancement of American Indian students; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, the Oklahoma Advisory Council on American Indian Education (OACIE) has served as a venue to promote strong collaborations and provide information on the needs of American Indian students, with members including state officials, representatives of statewide education organizations, and representatives of Tribal Nations and Tribal education agencies; and

WHEREAS, the OACIE has a growing number of vacancies among seats representing Tribes due to the Governor of Oklahoma failing to perform his statutory responsibility to appoint members to the Council from nominations submitted by Tribes for more than two years; and

WHEREAS, vacancies are interfering with the important work of OACIE to facilitate tribal-state collaboration that sustain lifelong educational benefits for tribal citizens to feel represented in the Oklahoma K-12 public education system;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the Governor of Oklahoma to speedily fill all vacancies in the OACIE based on nominations from Tribes that have already been submitted to the Governor's office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that the Governor of Oklahoma continues to neglect this duty, the Inter-Tribal Council urges the Oklahoma Legislature to pass legislation that transfers this appointment power to legislative leaders, as well as clarifying the nomination process and setting a deadline for when vacancies shall be filled.



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Bolton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

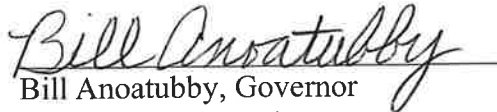


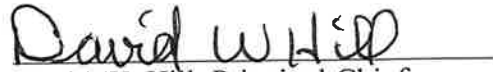
Lewis Johnson
Chief

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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 13th day of January, 2023, by a vote of All 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


Lewis J. Johnosn, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma