A Resolution of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma

No. __95-04__

Opposition to Block Granting Food Assistance Programs

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which united the tribal governments of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole and Cherokee Nations, representing over 300,000 tribal members throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council recognizes that the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) serves as an adjunct to good health care during critical times of growth and development; and

WHEREAS, the “Personal Responsibility Act” HR-4 and “The Welfare and Medicaid Responsibility Exchange Act of 1995” S-140 seek to consolidate WIC, Food Distribution, Food Stamps, School lunch, Elderly feeding and other food assistance programs into block grants awarded to states; and this act would reduce the federal budget for food assistance by $30 billion over five years; and

WHEREAS, this action jeopardizes the full funding initiative of the WIC Program, and potentially eliminates the Nutrition Quality Controls and Nutrition Standards for WIC and advances made in nutrition education in the Food Distribution Program; and

WHEREAS, the creation of such a block grant could result in food assistance programs vying for limited funding; and

WHEREAS, the WIC program through more than seventy evaluation studies, has demonstrated improved health for its participants in reducing childhood anemia, infant mortality, premature birth, low birth weight, and other problems related to nutrition in pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and infants and children under the age of five. The WIC Medicaid Study show that for every $1 invested in preventive care provided through WIC, $3 is saved in health care costs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes opposes legislation that block grants food assistance programs including WIC and supports the “Friends of WIC” letter (Attachment I).

Adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting at the Arrowhead Resort, Canadian, OK on this 13th day of January, 1995 by a vote of 24 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

___(Signed by Mary Flute-Cooksey for)___
Wilma P. Mankiller, Chief
The Cherokee Nation

___(Signed by Governor Anoatubby)___
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

___(Signed by Chief Haney)___
Jerry Haney, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

___(Signed by Gregory E. Pyle for)___
Hollis Roberts, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

___(Signed by Chief Fife)___
Bill S. Fife, Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation