The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A RESOLUTION OF THE INTER-TRIBAL
COUNCIL OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

NUMBER 96-09

Support for Restoration of Funding to American Indian/
Alaska Native Education Appropriations

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

WHEREAS,
through federal treaty, established policy and legal precedent, the United States
Government has acknowledged its trust responsibility to promote the academic
education of Indian people; and

WHEREAS,
The United States Constitution specifically defines the powers of the Federal
Government with regard to the Tribal/Federal relationship; and

WHEREAS,
The American Indian was identified as the “Last American” in every socio-
economic category by President Nixon, prompting his administration to establish
and “era of self-determination for Indian people”; and

WHEREAS,
The Clinton Administration has expressed its support and recognition of the
sovereignty of the Indian Nations before tribal leaders at the White House; and

WHEREAS,
Proposals now considered by Congress ignore the federal trust obligation and
would delegate federal responsibility to individual states and return Indian
Nations to abject poverty by denying them access to adequate educational
opportunity including tribal cultural and language programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does hereby call upon
the Congress of the United States and the Clinton Administration to honor the
Nation’s treaty obligations to act upon and reaffirm their trust responsibility to
Indian Nations by taking affirmative measures to sufficiently fund educational
programs, established or to be established, for the benefit of Indian people,
including tribal schools, colleges, tribal education departments, scholarship
programs and tribal education consortiums.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED
That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports the restoration of funding to the following:

1. The Office of Indian Education at FY 1995 levels for discretionary grant programs such as Adult Education, fellowships, teacher training, program development and formula grants and the national Advisory Council on Indian Education;
2. Funding in the Department of Education at FY 1995 levels for Impact Aid and Title I.
3. Opposes cuts to PELL grants, Perkins loans and any other higher educational grants;
4. Opposes cuts to the Johnson O’Malley Program within the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior. JOM should be funded at $200.00 per student.

CERTIFICATION

ADOPTED by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting held at Wagoner, Oklahoma on January 12, 1996 by a vote of 25 for, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Joe Byrd Signed          Greg E. Pyle Signed for
Joe Byrd, Principal Chief Hollis Roberts, Chief
Cherokee Nation          Choctaw Nation

Perry Beaver Signed      Jerry Haney Signed
Perry Beaver, Principal Chief Jerry Haney, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation  Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed    
Bill Anoatubby, Governor Chickasaw Nation