



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 99:17

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS (NCAI) RESOLUTION #MRB-98-059 ENTITLED "WELFARE REFORM"

- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors is dedicated and committed to the needs of its tribes and members in the goal of preserving the sovereignty, inherent rights, integrity, and stability of our Indian children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at its October 1998 Annual Session passed Resolution #MRB-98-059 entitled Welfare Reform; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Social Services Committees has on several previous occasions discussed the issues surrounding Tribal and State Welfare Reform and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Social Services Committee agrees with and supports all the aspects of the National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MRB-98-059; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors unites and supports the National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MRB-98-059.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the annual USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, February 4, 1999.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION # MRB-98-059

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Lumbee Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JoAnn K. Chase
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara

Title: WELFARE REFORM

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest and largest national organization established in 1944 and comprised of representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and local Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of NCAI; and

WHEREAS, NCAI has sponsored a series of Welfare Reform Forums to initiate a dialogue among social service experts who are familiar with Tribal communities and their unique needs surrounding welfare reform and to discuss the solutions to the impacts of welfare reform; and

WHEREAS, these forums have resulted in the identification of recommended changes needed in the proposed regulations of P.L. 104-193 (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996), changes or technical amendments to the law; the inclusion of Tribes in associated federal funding opportunities relevant to welfare reform; improved coordination of federal resources for tribes; parity in the provisions, requirements and resources between Tribal and State TANF programs; stronger federal support for Tribal TANF programs; and explicit tribal consultation procedures established with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services, Division of Tribal Services.

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WHEREAS, the proposed regulations should not be more burdensome or require more than what is prescribed by the Act itself as in the proposed requirements at §286.40 which limits administrative costs to 20%; §286.85 and §286.90 requires 20 hours per week of work activity participation rather than allowing Tribes to establish "similar participation requirements;"

WHEREAS, the Act itself requires technical amendments found in the proposed regulations at §286.50 does not give tribes "carry-over authority" afforded to States; §286.65(g) applies non-applicable state standard to tribes; §286.140 does not allow a waiver process for tribes even though time frames are not specified in the law; and §286.230 does not consider cultural diversity with the reference to "out-of-wedlock" births; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for Tribes to participate in the bonus and incentive provisions and to retain funds for use in succeeding years in a manner comparable to the states; and

WHEREAS, Tribes will require funding for planning, start-up expenses, management information system and other infrastructure needs in order to develop an administratively effective Tribal TANF program; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Administration and Congress to provide access to federal job creation, small business development, entrepreneurial and economic development resources to create 50,000 new jobs that will provide living wages for the 50,000 adult Indians who are unemployed or under-employed based on Tribal JOBS, NEW and G.A. data; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the United States Department of Health and Human Services to require strict compliance by all states with equitable access and the requirement that a person is exempt from the TANF time limits while living in an area where 50% or more of the adults are not employed; and

WHEREAS, upon the expiration of the Welfare to Work Program in fiscal year 1999, there will be a need to continue to provide training and employment services for Tribal TANF recipients at a level of not less than the current \$25 million; and

WHEREAS, the educational level of Indian TANF recipients is lower than that of the general population there is a need to amend P.L. 104-193, to expand the work activity allowance for basic, vocational post-secondary education from the current twelve months period up to twenty-four month period.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI recognizes needs and does hereby support these recommendations and deems them necessary to the successful operation and implementation

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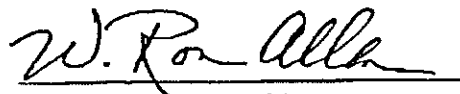
of Tribal TANF programs and to the successful achievement of self-sufficiency for Indian TANF recipients;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in support and recognition of these needs they will authorize the NCAI Welfare Reform Task Force to support, encourage and promote the efforts of the Administration and Congress to take appropriate and necessary action to enable these essential changes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that full consultation with tribes precede any significant changes to welfare laws and regulations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 1998 55th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 18-23, 1998 with a quorum present.


W. Ron Allen, President

ATTEST:



Lela Kaskalla, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 1998 55th Annual Session held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 18-23, 1998.