



NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2016 – 03

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support Passage of S.2785, Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act of 2016

WHEREAS, we the members of the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) 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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the issues and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of our Elders, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NICOA was established in 1976 by Tribal Leaders to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services and economic wellbeing for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2016 S. 2785, the Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act of 2016 was introduced into the U.S. Senate. S. 2785 states that children in Indian Country should be protected from violence, tribal communities which includes caregivers (Caregivers include any parent, guardian, legal custodian, and any relative of the child such as grandparents, great-grandparents) should be able to protect themselves from offenders who bring illegal drugs onto Indian reservations, and violence against children and crimes associated with illegal drugs increase the number of victims suffering from trauma in tribal communities. Congress established the Indian Law and Order Commission to advise the federal government on improving criminal justice in Indian Country; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NICOA Elders hereby support the swift passage of S. 2785 to protect Native children and promote public safety in Indian Country. NICOA joins with NCAI in supporting this bill.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution was passed before a duly called meeting of the National Indian Council on Aging.