



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-NICOA2010-007

TITLE: Illicit and addictive chemicals among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and families.

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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, 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 health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, methamphetamine abuse and suicidal behavior is becoming a growing concern in AI/AN communities. Combined with other social problems such as crime, substance abuse, limited economic opportunities, low academic achievement and high suicide rates, all contribute to the destruction of AI/AN families, leaving behind a trail of violence and grief; and

WHEREAS, many AI/AN communities are isolated, plagued with high unemployment, high accidental deaths, ennui, alcoholism coupled with mental illnesses, and limited law enforcement and mental health services. Foreign drug cartels have infiltrated many AI/AN communities making the conditions more egregious, especially among western American Indian communities; and.

WHEREAS, similar to the devastation caused by alcoholism, methamphetamine is rapidly destroying generations of AI/AN families. In certain AI/AN communities the entire family comprised of three generations are addicted to the drugs and in some cases elders are involved in usage and peddling of illicit drugs; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement in isolated AI/AN lands are overwhelmed by the drug epidemic with no end in sight. Marijuana is taking a back seat to methamphetamine but many youth are now addicted to methamphetamine, marijuana, and ethanol. Treatment facilities and services do not exist on many of these affected AI/AN communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of Justice institute multiple jurisdictional approaches among state, tribal, and federal agencies for resolution of illicit drug problems in AI/AN lands; and.

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to support and promote involvement of tribal elders and spiritual guidance to help rehabilitate offenders through cultural and traditional methods in support of strengthening family systems in AI/NA communities; and .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to revoke census numbers and ban American Indians who manufacture and sell methamphetamine on or near Indian lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to increase PL 43-437 appropriations to establish Meth Rehab Centers for AI/AN individuals desiring to obtain treatment and other services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to create and increase funding to implement treatment modalities which are substantially longer than 12 months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to conduct comprehensive background checks on all non-Indians living on AI/AN lands.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary