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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-037

Title: Support for First Nations Orphan Association

**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 and their way of life, 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**, the entire first nations people have been affected by state and private adoption or foster care systems creating post-adoption spiritual and mental health issues, which result in high rates of depression, addiction, school drop out, incarceration and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal Indian Child Welfare Act recognizes the need for First Nations people that have been adopted to reconnect with their tribal families and communities and provides for these individuals to have a right to obtain information to help them in this pursuit; and

**WHEREAS**, state courts and state and private social service agencies are not equipped to address the spiritual, mental health and other special needs of First Nations people that have been adopted; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Nations Orphan Association goals is to develop strategies that will address post-adoption issues and services to all adoptees, foster care children and families in accordance with our traditional spiritual heritage and the policies of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

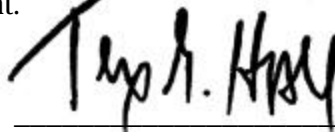
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support the efforts of the First Nations Orphan Association to develop agencies and services that will address spiritual and advocacy issues affecting adoptees, helping individuals and their families in accordance with our traditional spiritual heritage; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI supports the First Nations Orphan Association in their efforts to collaborate with Bureau of Indian Affairs Enrollment offices, state and federal offices, tribal enrollment offices, and tribal child welfare programs to disseminate information regarding services that the First Nations Orphan Association provides; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002.