

## 2021 DRAFT AFN CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

NUMBER	TITLE	ACTION
<b>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</b>		
21-1	A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME OF WORK AND ADVOCACY FOR ALASKA NATIVE ISSUES OF CYNTHIA AHWINONA	PASS
<b>SUBSISTENCE</b>		
21-2	A RESOLUTION TO PREVENT THE IMMEDIATE EXTINCTION OF COASTAL ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE'S STATUS RELATED TO MARINE MAMMAL HARVEST ELIGIBILITY	PASS
21-3	SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT	PASS
21-4	ALASKA NATIVE ANCESTRAL WAYS OF LIFE PROVIDE FOR HEALTH, WELLBEING, SOCIAL COHESION, ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY, AND SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE	PASS
21-5	CALLING FOR A FIELD HEARING ON THE STATE OF SALMON	PASS
21-6	SUPPORT FOR EXPEDITIOUS DECLARATIONS OF FISHERY DISASTERS AND FUNDING DISBURSEMENTS	PASS
<b>HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE</b>		
21-7	SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE TO USE CARES ACT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS	PASS
21-8	PROMOTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS YOUTH	PASS
21-9	DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION	PASS
21-10	URGING THE SENATE TO INTRODUCE AND PASS THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IN THE 117TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION	PASS
21-11	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON UNTESTED RAPE KITS AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION	PASS
21-12	URGING THE SENATE TO PASS THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT (FVPSA) IN THE 117TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION	PASS

21-13	IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT	PASS
21-14	ENCOURAGING COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING, TOBACCO CESSATION AND RESEARCH TO ADDRESS THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF CANCER AMONG ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE	PASS
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
21-15	MAKING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE CLASSES MANDATORY FOR K-12 STATE OF ALASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	PASS
21-16	BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME FROM CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL	PASS
21-17	TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR ALASKA NATIVE ELDERLY AND YOUTH	PASS
21-18	ALASKA NATIVE ENTITIES ADVOCATING FOR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL INVESTMENT INTO ALASKA NATIVE LED AND OWNED K-12 EDUCATION	PASS
<b>LAND, ENERGY, &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
21-19	EXPANDING THE BIA TRIBAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM	PASS
21-20	SUPPORT OF DEFENDING THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION FUND	PASS
<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
21-21	SUPPORT FOR THE TRIBAL TOURISM SOVEREIGNTY ACT	PASS
<b>ANSCA/TRIBAL</b>		
21-22	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION EXPANDING SELF-GOVERNANCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	PASS
<b>OTHER</b>		
21-23	SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	

# **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-1

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME OF WORK AND ADVOCACY FOR ALASKA NATIVE ISSUES OF CYNTHIA AHWINONA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Cynthia Ahwinona was born on December 12, 1952 in Nome, Alaska. She was one of four daughters to Jacob and Hannah Ahwinona. She was a tribal member of the Nome Eskimo Community; and
- WHEREAS:** Cynthia worked on Capitol Hill for Sen. Mike Gravel and for Congressman Don Young for a combined total of about 30 years; and
- WHEREAS:** Cynthia worked tirelessly on Native issues in Congress, including writing legislation, listening to testimony and feedback from Alaska Native organizations, and conducting research. Her focus was on ANCSA amendments, Indian health care, ICWA amendments, and appropriations for all Native programs; and
- WHEREAS:** She masterminded the development of the Indian Health Care and Self Determination Act and worked for years to secure its passage, which finally became law shortly after she retired. She played a role in the reauthorization of the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act, which provides grants to tribes and tribal organizations for housing; and
- WHEREAS:** She worked to secure funding for port improvements in Nome and to find ways to deal with rapidly eroding shorelines that threatened several villages in the Bering Strait region. She improved awareness of the water and sewer needs of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** She fought for increased funding for the Violence Against Women Act and especially for its Tribal set-asides. This funding provided support to the Alaska Native Justice Center; and
- WHEREAS:** Cynthia was instrumental in the passage and funding for the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO), which provided funding to the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Inupiat Heritage Center in Utqiagvik. She strongly supported the notion of a Nome cultural center; and

WHEREAS: Cynthia oversaw delegation efforts to implement the Native American Graves Restoration Act, which aimed to return Native bones and artifacts to the Native communities that they were originally from; and

WHEREAS: Cynthia was an advocate for the arts and promoted indigenous artwork. She served on the Board of the Institute of American Indian Art (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Along with Congressman Young, she advocated for the National Museum of the American Indian and proudly marched in full Tribal regalia in sweltering Washington D.C. heat when it opened; and

WHEREAS: Cynthia gave up her life and comfort zone in rural Alaska for several decades to become a voice for her people in Washington D.C. After retirement, she continued to work as an advocate, as a board member of the Nome Eskimo Community and the Norton Sound Health Corporation. She served as a director on the Koahnic Broadcast Corporation Board and was the Alaska region vice president for the National Congress of American Indians. In 2010, Cynthia received a National Impact Award from the National Indian Health Board for her efforts to improve Indian health.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual AFN Convention recognizes Cynthia Ahwinona and her many contributions to indigenous peoples across the United States and the Alaska Native community and Norton Sound region.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC

BOARD ACTION:

# **SUBSISTENCE**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-2

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO PREVENT THE IMMINENT EXTINCTION OF COASTAL ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE'S STATUS RELATED TO MARINE MAMMAL HARVEST ELIGIBILITY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indigenous people of Alaska have harvested sea mammals since time immemorial for many uses that include food, clothing, art, regalia, and currency; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people have well established trade and barter systems in existence for thousands of years between coastal and interior people, such that all Alaska Native People depend on and utilize marine mammal resources; and
- WHEREAS:** The Marine Mammal Protection Act was made law in 1972 and states that only coastal Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos are able to take marine mammals for subsistence or handicraft purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 uses the original definition of "Native" established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** In the CFRs, "Native" means a citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community) Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or combination thereof, or originally enrolled under Section 5 of ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** These regulations have divided Alaskan Natives into two categories of "Natives" and "Descendants of "; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2016, Dr. Steven Langdon completed a Research Report titled Determination of Alaska Native Status under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) at the request of the Sealaska Heritage Institute. That report showed that between 7/1/2006-7/8/2011 and 7/1/2011-7/8/2016, there was a significant increase in newly issued Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) to enrollees with less than ¼ blood quantum; and
- WHEREAS:** The percent increase of new enrollees with less than ¼ blood quantum varied significantly by region and for the period ending in 2016 that Calista increased 8.5% with

243 of 2,858 new CDIB's, Koniag increased 69.1% with 475 of 687 new CDIB's, and Sealaska increased 42.8% with 1,964 of 4,586 new CDIB's; and

WHEREAS: All coastal Alaska Native groups' status will eventually become extinct regarding marine mammal harvest eligibility without modification of existing criteria.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives pursue an amendment to 50 CFR by affirming the authority of federally recognized Alaska tribes to determine harvest eligibility criteria and management for marine mammals traditionally harvested in their region. This authority would supplement rather than supplant the efforts of existing co-management bodies like the Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) and the Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission (TASSSC); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tribes would therefore develop in-region management by establishing co-management agreements between an in-region co-management coalition or organization comprised of representatives of all or many tribes within the region and existing bodies like IPCoMM and TASSSC to support culturally-based, responsible subsistence efforts and to develop statewide acceptable responses to an individual who might violate terms of management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives prevent the future extinction of coastal Alaskans' way of life regarding marine mammal harvest eligibility by implementing this resolution immediately.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG, INC., SEALASKA CORPORATION, AND EYAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-3

TITLE: SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native cultures developed rich and enduring societies and economies around the harvest and utilization of natural resources that have sustained us through thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: A bill titled the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act (the bill) to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) has been introduced by Rep. Jared Huffman (D)-California who is Chair of the House Waters, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee, and

WHEREAS: The Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act includes provisions that would be beneficial to subsistence fishing, including:

- Title I of the bill would aggressively address the impact of climate change on our nation's fisheries by requiring regional councils to manage its fisheries in a manner that accounts for the adverse impacts, present, and future, of climate change on those fisheries; incorporating the best available climate science into council decision-making; and launching a Climate Ready Fisheries Innovation Program; and
- Section 201 would extend fishery resource disaster relief to subsistence losses; and
- Section 202 would add protection of subsistence fishing to the MSA's list of purposes. Currently, those purposes extend only to commercial and recreational fishing; and
- Section 304 would apportion voting membership of the MSA's regional fisheries management councils among a broader range of interests that includes subsistence users and members of indigenous and tribal communities; and
- Section 508 would require: (i) a review of all currently unmanaged forage fish (such as herring) fisheries, in federal waters; (ii) a moratorium on any new fishery targeting those populations until the need for management has been studied; and (iii) strict new management rules for forage fisheries.

- WHEREAS: National Standard Nine of the MSA calls for the minimization of “bycatch” and to the extent practicable bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch; and
- WHEREAS: bycatch of many species such as salmon and halibut has not been reduced to the extent practicable and continues to negatively impact the subsistence, cultural and economic well-being of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS: bycatch of species such as salmon and halibut are discarded as “waste” thereby violating our basic cultural value of full utilization of edible resources; and
- WHEREAS: the adverse effects of climate change on our nation’s fisheries have been magnified in the waters off Alaska, and Alaska Native subsistence fishermen have and continue to suffer from the decline in those fisheries due to climate change; and
- WHEREAS: AFN has long sought the protection of subsistence fishing and the inclusion of subsistence fishing as eligible for Disaster Relief; and
- WHEREAS: While the Sustaining America’s Fisheries for the Future Act holds the potential for Alaska subsistence user representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, appointments to the Council are still limited to nominations advanced by Alaska’s governor; and
- WHEREAS: Under the existing MSA, the Pacific Management Council, covering federal waters off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington, must include a representative of an Indian tribe with federally-recognized fishing rights. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council contains no similar provision, despite Alaska Natives’ deep and abiding interest in protecting their subsistence fishing rights as recognized in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and
- WHEREAS: Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) have become a preferred tool for the management of Federal fisheries and Alaska’s fisheries dependent communities are directly impacted when LAPPs are developed that limit access to fisheries; and
- WHEREAS: The Sustaining America’s Fisheries for the Future Act does not adequately strengthen fishery dependent community protections under MSA section 303A; and
- WHEREAS: The protections accorded forage fish in the I Sustaining America’s Fisheries for the Future Act would extend only to federal waters, while commercial exploitation of those same forage fish in state waters will continue to be regulated under outdated and often inadequate state regulation and will continue to have a significant adverse effect on forage fish populations in federal waters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives:

1. Support those provisions of Title I of the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act that recognize and respond to the management and sustainability challenges posed by climate change; and
2. Support those provisions of the bill that relate to the protection of subsistence fishing; include subsistence and tribal representatives on regional fisheries management councils; and enhance protection of forage fish populations in federal waters; and
3. Urge Congress to amend the bill's definition of "subsistence fishing" to respect Alaska Natives' customary village cash trade as recognized by the Department of the Interior under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act and by the International Pacific Halibut Commission; and
4. Support designating two tribal seats on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council under the same terms as are currently provided in the MSA for the Pacific Council and as enhanced by the bill; and
5. Support amending the bill to clarify National Standard Nine so that the definition of "to the extent practicable" for bycatch is a 20% reduction of all bycatch in the United States over a 5-year period and further amend the draft to specifically state that "to the extent practicable" for salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska is a reduction of bycatch by 50% and for halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska is a reduction of 30% within 5 years; and
6. Further, amend National Standard Nine to say, "and to the extent that bycatch cannot be avoided and bycatch mortality cannot be avoided, bycatch shall be retained"; and
7. Support amending the bill to include in section 303A(c)(L) language to ensure fishing dependent communities' access to and sustained participation in, the fishery to which any LAPP program applies and to amend current LAPP programs to ensure fishing dependent communities' access to and sustained participation in existing LAPP programs; and
8. Also, urge inclusion in the bill of measures to encourage states to adopt management measures for forage fisheries in state waters that are at least as protective of forage fish as those proposed for federal waters in the bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN request the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support AFN Resolution 21-3 as outlined above.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG, INC, SEALASKA CORPORATION, AND EYAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-4

- TITLE: AFFIRM THAT ALASKA NATIVE ANCESTRAL WAYS OF LIFE PROVIDE FOR HEALTH, WELL-BEING, SOCIAL COHESION, ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY, AND SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have stewarded their territories for over 10,000 years to ensure the health, wellbeing, social and cultural foundation, and spiritual existence of their peoples, as well as that of the animals, lands, and waters since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have provided governance and stewardship in recognition of these responsibilities in such a profound manner that immigrants to Alaska beginning in the late 1700s could not even fathom this:” We have lived in places with such efficiency and grace that later people who have come to our homelands have considered them to be empty of human beings, and they've called this a wilderness because they didn't see us in those places. They couldn't imagine that a people could live so well in a land that it would appear untouched by them. And we live with the dilemma of that to this day.” - Paul Ongtooguk (Inupiaq), remarks made at the Alaska Native Education Summit, November 2001; and
- WHEREAS: The hunting, fishing, harvesting, and gathering practices of Alaska Natives, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources and the ceremonies which accompany these practices are year-round and essential to the physical, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic wellbeing and survival of the Alaska Native peoples and their unique village-hub-city systems and relationships across Alaska, and the diaspora of Alaska Natives around the country and world; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives, through all of their governments, organizations, entities, and organizing forums are the best people to make the decisions that impact their homelands, their activities and that of others within their territories, their cultures, ancestral ways of life, and the lands, waters, and animals of their territories; and
- WHEREAS: The intent of this resolution is to Be Good Relatives, ensure we are building up our relationships and not further dividing us - our ancestral ways of life bring us together and make us stronger; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have the inherent right to exist as “culturally distinct societies of peoples”, and integral to our existence is our relationship and stewardship of our homelands and ancestral ways of life - one cannot exist without the other; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives like all other human beings have an inherent right to eat and feed themselves for sustenance, for survival in times of hardships, and for in times of abundance. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food...;” and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native stewardship and management continues despite mostly non-inclusion in any real meaningful ways with the federal and state management system which has and continues to fail Alaska Natives peoples despite Congressional intent, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Federal Trust Responsibility, and more, in profoundly inequitable and unjust ways, strangling our ancestral ways of life and keeping our well-being tied up in the balance. This failure manifests in many ways such as dire social statistics and increased law enforcement against Native peoples criminalizing us over hunting and fishing issues, but none the least of which is through non-utilization, non-strengthening, undermining through multiple bureaucratic and political methods, and actual diminishment of the vital government-to-government relationship with the Tribes of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress invoked its constitutional authority over Native affairs, under the property clause, and the commerce clause to protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses on federal public lands and Alaska Native lands by Alaska Natives in 1980 in ANILCA, and this has continued to fail or protect Alaska Natives and our ancestral ways of life, and especially in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic this can no longer be allowed as it very much endangers our individual lives and our existence as peoples to be separated from our foods, our stewardship, and management practices and our ceremonies, and this endangerment can no longer be tolerated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives assert and affirm that we as Alaska Natives will continue to steward our lands, ensure the practice of our ancestral ways of life, and provide for the health, wellbeing, cultural foundation, spiritual existence, and food security of our peoples as we have for over 10,000 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Natives do not seek the permission of external governments to provide for the wellbeing of our peoples; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives stand together, organize, and unify to do what is necessary to resolve this long-standing issue of federal and state interference in the management of our homelands – of our hunting, fishing, harvesting, gathering, sharing, and ceremony, as well as our relationships with our animal relatives; It is not theirs to control, it is ours to live; so let us affirm that we will no longer tolerate federal and state mismanagement

and that we will do what is necessary to stop the criminalization of our peoples for living our ancestral ways of life and effectuate a comprehensive fix to the current federal and state regime that is so harmful to our peoples and our ancestral ways of life.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-5

TITLE: CALLING FOR A FIELD HEARING ON THE STATE OF SALMON

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: Healthy and abundant salmon stocks are essential for the nutritional, cultural, and economic well-being of Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: The salmon resources that return every year provide for a unique subsistence way of life and are essential for food security and for providing a modest commercial fishing economic base that supports families throughout the year; and

WHEREAS: Our rivers have experienced fisheries disasters and community economic hardship many times over the last thirty years, including the recent summer of 2020, which was characterized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as one of the worst salmon seasons in decades; and

WHEREAS: The current summer of 2021 was without a single opening on the Yukon River and poor runs in other rivers; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has requested 2020 and 2021 federal commercial and subsistence fisheries disaster declarations on March 8, 2021, and September 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS: To date, the U.S. Department of Commerce has taken no action on these disaster requests.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support the State of Alaska's Department of Commerce disaster declaration requests; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives works to arrange a field hearing with the Congressional Delegation to discuss the State of Salmon in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-6

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR EXPEDITION OF FISHERY DISASTER DECLARATIONS AND FUNDING DISBURSEMENTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Fish are vital to the cultural, nutritional, and economic well-being of Alaska Natives, essential to their cultural heritage, food security, and economic livelihoods; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska communities and their Alaska Native residents are economically dependent on the local commercial fisheries; and
- WHEREAS:** Recent fishery disasters have disproportionately affected Alaska Native people, particularly in the Chignik and Yukon River areas, where the population is nearly 100% reliant on salmon for economic and subsistence purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** The affected communities are suffering great economic hardships as their residents have been unable to provide for their basic human needs, such as home heating fuel, electricity, groceries, gasoline, and other expenses; and
- WHEREAS:** The impact of these fishery disasters is beyond the capacity of the local community and tribal governments to manage or mitigate and extends to every person who resides in the affected communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Fishery disaster relief funding under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is essential to the economic survival of these communities and their residents; and
- WHEREAS:** Fishery disaster relief funding is taking far too long to be disbursed; case in point, the Chignik communities of the Alaska Peninsula are still waiting for disbursements from the fishery disaster funds related to a 2018 salmon fishery disaster declaration; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN can be an integral part of bringing all community and tribal voices together to streamline the disaster application, declaration, and distribution processes on both the state and federal levels.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that for the foregoing reasons, the membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives demands that:

- (a) the United States Department of Commerce expedites decisions on all pending fishery disaster declaration requests from Alaska; and
- (b) the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game reduces the amount of time it takes to develop spending plans for the funds allocated for fishery disaster relief; and
- (c) the United States Department of Commerce and State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game work together to get fishery disaster relief funds disbursed to impacted communities, Tribes, and residents more quickly; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby authorizes AFN staff to take such actions to effectuate the intent of this resolution and provides support to advocate for the expedition of fishing disaster declarations and funding disbursements.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

BOARD ACTION

# **HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-7

TITLE: SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE TO USE CARES ACT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native cultures developed rich and enduring societies and economies around the harvest and utilization of natural resources that have sustained us through thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Tribes and organizations could benefit from an extension of the deadline to use Coronavirus Relief Funds of the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Native people could not access Coronavirus Relief Funds until after the US Supreme Court ruled in late June 2021, over 15 months from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS: An extension of the deadline requires no new distribution of federal funds, just additional time to provide critical assistance to Alaska Native peoples, families, and communities as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call on the US Congress to support at least a one-year extension of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund deadline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support AFN Resolution 21-06 as outlined above.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG, INC  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-8

TITLE: PROMOTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS YOUTH

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native youth face one of the highest rates of suicide and have mental health disparities that need to be addressed urgently, and a substantial amount of Alaska Native youth in foster homes need access to these services which will also help supplement the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

WHEREAS: Culturally relevant and respectful programs are needed to address the unmet needs of at-risk Native youth, including addressing Native youth suicide prevention and intervention, and providing culturally appropriate resources and materials that address suicide, substance abuse prevention, and promote mental health among youth.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Tribal Health System and all of its connected entities implement and create Indigenous themed, culturally responsive telehealth programs for promoting and supporting the mental health of youth as well as increasing the number of tribal counselors in public schools, health consortiums, and for Native foster homes.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-9

TITLE: DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: generations of Alaska Native, Native American, and Native Hawaiian children stolen from their homes and forced into more than 350 boarding schools established by the Indian Civilization Act of 1819 to "kill the Indian and save the man" by isolating them from their Native cultures and families; and

WHEREAS: the first boarding school in Alaska was established in Sitka in 1878 by Presbyterian missionaries; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native children were sent to schools outside of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: the goal of many educators at the time of mandatory boarding schools was assimilate Indigenous children into the dominant culture by inflicting brutal punishment on them for speaking their languages and practicing their cultures; and

WHEREAS: children suffered horrific physical, cultural, spiritual, and sexual abuse and neglect at the hands of their caretakers and teachers while attending mandatory boarding schools; and

WHEREAS: the pain inflicted by this cultural genocide is passed down from generation to generation and is reflected across the state in Alaskans' heartbreaking struggles with suicide, drug and alcohol abuse and violence; and

WHEREAS: the effects of mandatory Indian boarding schools is not the past and will not soon be forgotten, because survivors and their families are healing from the trauma of boarding school experiences; and

WHEREAS: for almost two centuries, the legacy of Indian boarding schools has remained a silent chapter in America's past and written out of history books; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced that the United States government will finally review our nation's shameful history of Indian boarding schools; and

WHEREAS: this unprecedented initiative will uncover the truth about the loss of human life and the lasting consequences of boarding schools and forced assimilation; and

WHEREAS: Orange Shirt Day was created by Canadian boarding school survivor, Phyllis Webstad, who had her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of boarding school; and

WHEREAS: The orange shirt is a symbol that every child matters and honors boarding school survivors and Indigenous children who never returned home.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual AFN Convention hereby recognizes and firmly supports joining Canada in observing the Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a way to honor the lost children who never returned home and survivors of boarding schools, their families and Indigenous communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives actively seeks state and federal legislation that solidifies in law - September 30th as Day for Truth and Reconciliation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN and AFN delegates will promote and communicate the Day for Truth and Reconciliation throughout our communities and encourage all Alaskans to wear an orange shirt to honor the ongoing legacy of boarding schools in Alaska, the United States, and colonized nations around the world so that we can work together to create a future that we're all proud to embrace.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-10

- TITLE:** URGING THE SENATE INTRODUCE AND PASS THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IN THE 117TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The House of Representatives passed the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, H.R. 1620, in March 2021, including Title IX Safety for Indian Women; and
- WHEREAS:** The Senate has not introduced the bill, and thus has not passed the Reauthorization of the Violence Act of 1994, despite the overwhelming need for this legislation and the grant programs contained within; and
- WHEREAS:** American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2.5 times as likely to experience violent crimes—and at least 2 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes—compared to all other races. More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women, or 84.3 percent, have experienced violence in their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the Tribal Law and Order Act Commission Report, Alaska Native women are over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250 percent; they comprise 19 percent of Alaska’s population, but are 47 percent of reported rape victims in the State. And among other Indian Tribes, Alaska Native women suffer the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in the country; and
- WHEREAS:** H.R. 1620, included a pilot project to allow up to five Indian Tribes in Alaska to implement special Tribal criminal jurisdiction, an effort to better hold abusers accountable and increase safety particularly in the rural Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** The Violence Policy Center reports that Alaska is ranked first among states with the highest homicide rates of women by men and is the most violent state, with Anchorage as the most violent city within the Union; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2013, during the Congressional debates to reauthorize the Violence Against Women’s Act, United Nations human rights officials came together and released a public statement calling on the United States to act promptly to pass key reforms to the

Violence Against Women Act that bolster indigenous tribes; that the continued jurisdictional gaps, especially those in Alaska, are an escalating human rights crisis; and

WHEREAS: State of Alaska, like the federal government, has failed in providing for public safety in Alaska Native villages as according to the Tribal Law and Order Commission Report, about 40% of Native communities' lack law enforcement; and

WHEREAS: Most of the Alaska Native villages are located in remote areas that are often inaccessible by road and have no local law enforcement presence. The Tribal Law and Order Commission found that "Alaska Department of Public Safety (ADPS) officers have primary responsibility for law enforcement in rural Alaska, but ADPS provides for only 1.0-1.4 field officers per million acres."; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities are in dire need of the provisions within the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 as passed by the House of Representatives in March 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby urges the Senate to introduce and pass a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women's Act consistent with the terms of H.R. 1620 to include the Alaska specific provisions and Title IX, and resources to fully implement the provisions to help with the health, safety, and welfare of Alaska Native communities.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF AKIAK

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-11

- TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON UNTESTED RAPE KITS AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Traditionally, American Indians and Alaska Natives (“Indigenous”) women were respected and held sacred within their Nations; and
- WHEREAS:** Colonization eroded the sacred status of Indigenous women, dehumanizing and destroying their original protections within their Nations, which resulted in Indigenous women suffering disproportionate rates and multiple forms of violence, including murder; and
- WHEREAS:** A 2016 study from the National Institute of Justice found that American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experience rates of violence far exceeding rates in other populations, as 56.1% have experienced sexual violence, 55.5% have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, 48.8% have experienced stalking, and 66.4% have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner; and
- WHEREAS:** A Propublica Article from December 2020 found that as of that date, after spending three years and \$1.5 million to test 568 kits and review the results, Alaska has filed only one new criminal charge; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal Bureau of Justice Assistance began the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative in 2015 under President Barack Obama. The money was intended not only to clear existing backlogs but to help state and county leaders come up with ways to avoid future ones; and
- WHEREAS:** The state of Alaska has failed in testing all kits and prosecuting responsible individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** A 2016 study from the National Institute for Justice (NIJ), found that approximately 56% of Native women experience sexual violence within their lifetime, with 1 in 7 experiencing it in the past year; and

WHEREAS: Native victims of sexual violence are three times as likely to have experienced sexual violence by an interracial perpetrator as non-Hispanic White victims.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives calls on the State of Alaska to report on the number of outstanding untested rape kits, identify a process for completing the rest of the untested kits, provide a report on the results of prosecutions and identifying the perpetrators, detail a plan to provide sufficient resources to test all kits within 6 months of an alleged assault and collection, and the number of overall victims and the number of Alaska Native and American Indian victims.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF AKIAK

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-12

- TITLE:** URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT (FVPSA) IN THE 117TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Traditionally, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian (“Indigenous”) women were respected and held sacred within their Nations; and
- WHEREAS:** Colonization eroded the sacred status of Indigenous women, dehumanizing and destroying their original protections within their Nations, which resulted in Indigenous women suffering disproportionate rates and multiple forms of violence, including murder; and
- WHEREAS:** A 2016 study from the National Institute of Justice found that American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experience rates of violence far exceeding rates in other populations, as 56.1% have experienced sexual violence, 55.5% have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, 48.8% have experienced stalking, and 66.4% have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner; and
- WHEREAS:** American Indians are overrepresented in domestic violence and sexual assault statistics, with some statistics showing that Alaska Natives are victimized at twice the national average; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Law and Order Commission’s 2013 report noted that, Alaska Native women are over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250 percent as they comprise only 19 percent of the population, but 47 percent of reported rape victims; and
- WHEREAS:** The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and Arizona State University released three reports from 2018 to 2020 and among the findings are that 64% of survivors identified as being part Native Hawaiian; and
- WHEREAS:** The current spectrum of violence against Indigenous women is intertwined with systemic barriers embedded within the U.S. federal government, which developed as the U.S. seized the homelands and natural resources of Indigenous peoples, forcibly

removed and relocated them, and created living conditions where Indigenous women are vulnerable to violence; and

WHEREAS: To fully address the current crisis of violence against Indigenous women, these systemic barriers must be removed, additional domestic violence resource centers must be created, resources must be provided, and the sacred status of Indigenous women restored.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual AFN Convention support codifying an Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence and a Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence in the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 (FVPSA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support additional funding in the reauthorization of FVPSA to support a Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence and a Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF AKIAK

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-13

- TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native children are disproportionately represented in Alaska’s child welfare system, making up 15% of the state’s general population, but constituting 65% of children in State custody; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, Office of Children’s Services (OCS) has a difficult time recruiting and retaining a proficient workforce and generally operates at a 50% positional vacancy rate, requiring its frontline workers to carry caseloads more than three times the national average; and
- WHEREAS: AFN supports the ongoing work of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (the Compact), the goal of which is to transform child welfare by improving the life and outcomes of Alaska Native children in OCS custody at a lower cost and higher quality; and
- WHEREAS: The Compact enables Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide services, that are currently the responsibility of OCS, to Native children and families; and
- WHEREAS: Compact funding has remained flat over the last three fiscal years, even as Tribal Co-signers to the Compact are routinely asked to do more with less; and
- WHEREAS: Tribal Co-signers must supplement Compact work with general funds or funding from other programs; may have to reduce the amount of services they can provide under the Compact; and have difficulty recruiting and retaining staff with competitive and livable wages; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature included an increase of \$3.4 million for Compact implementation funds for FY 2022, which was vetoed by the Governor’s Office.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives affirm continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Urge the Alaska State Legislature and the Executive Branch to increase funding for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, to effect full and successful implementation.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-14

- TITLE: ENCOURAGING COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING, TOBACCO CESSATION AND RESEARCH TO ADDRESS THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF CANCER AMONG ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: A report released by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium capturing 50 years of data shows that cancer is a major concern to and remains a leading cause of death among Alaska Native people, including colorectal cancer and tobacco-related cancer; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native people have the highest incidence of colorectal cancer in the world and are diagnosed with and die of colorectal cancer at rates twice that of White people in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer can be prevented or cured if detected early by diagnostic screenings; and
- WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer screening throughout the Alaska Tribal Health System is highly variable with an average colorectal cancer screening rate of around 60%, while the national Healthy People 2030 goal for colorectal cancer screening is 74.4% at a minimum; and
- WHEREAS: There is a national effort to increase colorectal cancer screening rates to over 80% in every community throughout the country; and
- WHEREAS: Tobacco use is associated with an increased risk of colorectal and other cancers; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use in the state of Alaska with 2 out of every 5 Alaska Native adults smoking cigarettes and 1 in 10 using smokeless tobacco; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native people are disproportionately impacted by tobacco-related diseases in comparison to non-Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS: The health of our people is of utmost importance and Alaska Native people have taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years; and

WHEREAS: Reaching the colorectal cancer screening goal of 80% in every community will help protect the health of our families, elders, and community members; and

WHEREAS: Reducing tobacco use among Alaska Native people will help protect the health of our children, grandchildren, families, and community members; and

WHEREAS: More cancer research would help to understand why Alaska Native people are disproportionately affected by cancer and help improve cancer prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people should be supported in participating in cancer research studies to improve cancer prevention and early detection in Alaska Native people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support addressing the disproportionate burden of cancer among Alaska Native people by increasing colorectal cancer screening rates to 80% in every community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support increasing tobacco cessation efforts in every community to decrease the burden of tobacco-related cancers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support further research into the causes and prevention of cancer and participation in cancer research to improve the health of Alaska Native people.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

# EDUCATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-15

- TITLE:** MAKING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE CLASSES MANDATORY FOR K-12 STATE OF ALASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** While most school curricula are professionally developed, printed, and bound, cultural and bi-lingual education classes are often treated as extracurricular, relying on materials developed by individual teachers and printed in schools. This disparity in materials translates to Alaska Native children as inferiority of one's cultural identity; increased full-time positions in Alaska Native Language teaching are needed across Alaska Public Schools because it provides accessibility to entire student bodies; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2012, the Alaska State Legislature passed Senate Bill 130 into law. The bill established the Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council to assess the state of Alaska Native Languages, reevaluate the programs within the state, and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to establish new programs or reorganize the current programs. In 2014, the Alaska State Legislature passed House Bill 216, which officially recognizes 20 Alaska Native Languages as official languages of the State of Alaska. In September 2018, the Governor of the State of Alaska signed Administrative Order 300, declaring a state of linguistic emergency for Alaska's Indigenous languages; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Ways of Knowing and Learning, Ways of Being and Value Systems, are parallel and equal to any other, and should be respected and supported; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Ways, Knowledges, and Understandings add to the incredible diversity and richness of our great state and nation. Alaska Native communities need support for local initiatives to restore and enhance cultural and language programs in all schools, as fully equal, fully supported aspects of our school systems as COVID-19 have further endangered our languages and cultural retention.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Association of Alaska School Boards and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to make mandatory two years of study in an Alaska Native Language in order to graduate high school; Local school boards and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development utilize available federal funds to pay for the development of curriculum; new K-12 curriculum focused on Alaska Native cultures and history be created and implemented through all grade levels by reaching out to culture bearers and Native leaders in each community, and upon receiving final approval from Tribal leaders; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon our Tribes, regional nonprofits and for-profits, Association of Alaska School Boards and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska Tribal Unity, and the Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council to consider and approve this resolution, as well as the Speaker of the House, the House of Representatives of the Alaska Legislature, Alaska Senate, and the Alaska Senate President.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS  
BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-16

TITLE: BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME FROM CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: The bodies of 13 children from Alaska Native villages have been discovered at or near Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Currently the remains of two children, our Alaska Native Ancestors, have been or are being returned to Alaska, one to the Pribilofs and one to Ketchikan; and

WHEREAS: The return of these Ancestral remains to their home origins will begin a path of healing from intergenerational trauma for our living and future generations and families, and this effort will be stronger because of the inter-generational guidance, support, and involvement of Alaska Native Elders and Youth; and

WHEREAS: The Army Corps of Engineers has funding available to assist with the process of returning the remains, and the children and their home villages have been identified by the Carlisle Indian Industrial Boarding School with the help of Alaska Native peoples.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support the efforts to bring our children home from their boarding school experience and return their remains to their families, homes, and/or Tribes with the funding from the Army Corps of Engineers and other relevant entities.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS  
BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-17

- TITLE:** PROVIDING FOR TECHNOLOGY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR ALASKA NATIVE ELDERS AND YOUTH
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Conference is a 4-day event starting on a Sunday and ending on a Wednesday and previously held at various locations in Alaska which allowed Elders and presenters to adequately engage with our youth to teach, and to learn from youth what issues are worth fighting for. This was done by in-person attendance, socializing, programs, events, and activities that support health, language, education, laws and policies, and more; and
- WHEREAS:** Numerous other conferences, activities, events, and programs are held online and require computer knowledge, skills, and abilities to fully express our thoughts, feelings, emotions, and ideas to sustain our lives, and educate our own minds. This online environment can also make it harder to understand the full true meaning of our Elder and youth experiences, and in some instances, lack of this knowledge and access to technology could contribute to the end of a people's cultural and traditional ways; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indigenous people of Alaska are represented by 229 tribal governments, 12 ANCSA corporations, 198 village corporations, 11 non-profits, and many Native allies who can collaborate and support this need; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal governments across Alaska and ANCSA Corporations could provide funding to organizations and businesses to train Elders and Youth at various dates and times, coordinated with events, for this and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call on our Tribal Governments, ANCSA regional and village corporations, non-profits, and Native allies provide funding and training to Alaska Native Elders and Youth across the state to ensure that they are comfortable using and accessing technology to continue to learn and teach our Native languages, cultures, and ways of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Tribal Governments, ANCSA regional and village corporations, non-profits, and Native allies will also encourage ongoing technical support to Alaska Native Elders and Youth so they can thrive in the online environment, as tribal broadband is built out across the state; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the entities named above use COVID-19 and broadband funding to cover costs for this training and support wherever possible.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-18

TITLE: ALASKA NATIVE ENTITIES ADVOCATING FOR FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL INVESTMENT INTO ALASKA NATIVE-LED AND OWNED K-12 EDUCATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations and other entities have created, supported, and invested in funding to further success for students in post-secondary education arenas such as vocational technologies, college, and/or career training; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native youth are bright, hardworking, and fully capable students who are currently underserved by the existing K-12 education systems and educational spaces; there is not widespread access to educational environments that reflect Alaska Native students and make them feel valued; the State of Alaska is obligated to provide for public education that meets the needs of students; and

WHEREAS: A strong positive K-12 educational experience helps create success for the youth as they transition into adulthood; and is critical for economic stability.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call on the Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations, Tribes, and other Alaska Native entities to work together to advocate for federal, state, and local investment in K-12 education that includes building infrastructure, Alaska Native Language coursework, and curriculum that teaches through Indigenous ways of knowing in a manner that builds capacity for Tribal and Alaska Native-driven and owned K-12 education.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS  
BOARD ACTION:

# **LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-19

- TITLE:** EXPANDING THE BIA TRIBAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - Title V provides for \$216M in funding to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) from FY2022 to FY2026 for the purpose of: “tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation planning, design, and implementation of projects which address the varying climate challenges facing tribal communities across the country”; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN supports the use of the BIA funding for tribal communities considering relocation driven by environmental threats whether driven by “climate challenges”, or not; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recommends to BIA that the definition of community relocation should include both an entire community (i.e. Newtok, AK and Isle de Jean Charles, LA), or only portions of a community that are threatened (i.e. Akiak, AK and Taholah, WA); and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recommends that BIA develop prioritization methodologies for assigning the funding, such as the Denali Commission State-wide Threat Assessment; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recommends that BIA develop a project scoring rubric so that tribes and tribal organizations know how proposals will be evaluated; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recommends that BIA fund FEMA hazard mitigation plan (HMP) updates, as a first priority, for all tribes with an HMP that has lapsed or will soon to lapse, so that tribes can compete for disaster resilience funding from the FEMA Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities program; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recommends that BIA, as a second priority, fund pre-construction project development costs so that construction and implementation funding does not remain unused - for years - while permits, designs and site control matters, as an example, are addressed (i.e. allow for phased project development); and
- WHEREAS:** pre-construction tasks include, but are not limited to: site control and easements, legal and topographic surveying, subdivision platting, infrastructure design, permitting, NEPA and SHPO documentation, existing structures analysis for flood stage - finished floor elevations and relocation for FEMA acquisition and appraisal process, FEMA hazard

mitigation plan development including annual updates, incorporation of other community planning documents (energy, transportation, housing, sanitation, wildfire community plans, vulnerability assessments to the built environment, etc.), tribal capacity building and development of partnerships, community and stakeholder engagement, project management, and crafting construction contract solicitations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2021 Annual AFN Convention urge that Bureau of Indian Affairs incorporates construction and implementation principles in the deployment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds for efficient project development including the FEMA HMP process.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF AKIAK  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
BOARD ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-20

TITLE: SUPPORT OF DEFENDING THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION FUND

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has made significant investment in urban energy projects to provide affordable infrastructure for Urban Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Fuel cost components are nearly four times greater in rural Alaska than its urban centers; and

WHEREAS: Power Cost Equalization (PCE) was established in 1984 as a permanent solution for rural Alaska, which “equalizes” electric rates in rural Alaska to the average cost of power in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau; and

WHEREAS: Due to annual funding battles which threatened the longevity and viability of the PCE, the PCE Endowment Fund was established in 2000; and

WHEREAS: PCE reduces the high cost of electricity in rural Alaska for residential and community facility customers and served 81,700 Alaskans in 192 communities in Fiscal Year 2020; and

WHEREAS: In Fiscal Year 2020, approximately \$29 million in payments were made on behalf of customers in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Without PCE, residential electricity bills in rural Alaska will double, and other utilities such as water plants and sewage treatment centers which use large amounts of energy to operate, will also be impacted; and

WHEREAS: AFN, tribes, tribal organizations, municipalities, and utility companies have successfully sued the State of Alaska to prevent “sweeping” PCE funds into the Congressional Budget Reserve.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives commend AFN and all co-plaintiffs for their diligent defense of the Power Cost Equalization Fund (PCE); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 AFN Annual Convention support the continued implementation of Power Cost Equalization and the protection of the Power Cost Equalization Fund; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN continues working with tribes, tribal organizations, the Legislature, and other entities as necessary to protect the right to affordable energy in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

# ECONOMIC

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-21

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR THE TRIBAL TOURISM SOVEREIGNTY ACT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska whose membership includes 175 federally recognized tribes, 155 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that compact and contract to implement federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: AFN's mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community, and its goals include: advocating for Alaska Natives with respect to federal laws; fostering and encouraging preservation of Alaska Native cultures; promoting understanding of the economic needs of Alaska Natives and encouraging development consistent with those needs; protecting, retaining and enhancing all lands owned by Alaska Natives and their organizations; and promoting and advocating for programs and systems that instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The period defined by the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the resilience and shared sacrifice of the Alaska Native community, which has developed innovative tools to pursue economic development and prosperity for the Alaska Native community and all of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 exposed critical vulnerabilities in Alaska's economy, including in particular the requirements of the Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA), which governs the transport of passengers between ports or places in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The PVSA, enacted in 1886, is protectionist legislation that was intended to protect American industry and American jobs associated with shipbuilding and crewing; and

WHEREAS: To avoid violating the PVSA, large cruise ships must visit a foreign port at some point during their voyage, which, for cruises to Alaska, requires a stop in Canada; and

WHEREAS: Large passenger ships have not been built in the United States for over 60 years, with the last large passenger liner constructed in the United States completed in 1958; and

WHEREAS: During the period of the pandemic, including a period after which the U.S. Federal Government permitted resumption of cruising in the United States, Canada's ports were closed to cruise ships, making visits to Alaska by such vessels impossible without a change to the PVSA; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Congressional delegation successfully pursued the enactment of the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act, originally introduced by Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, which established a short-term exemption from the PVSA for cruises transporting

passengers to Alaska from the rest of the U.S. and thereby saved a portion of the 2021 summer cruise season; and

WHEREAS: The return of cruise ships to Alaska brought much-needed economic activity to the region, including Icy Strait Point, a port wholly owned by Huna Totem Corporation, the Alaska Native village corporation for Hoonah, Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The difficult effort to enact the short-term PVSA waiver served as a reminder that, in the future, Alaska cannot allow such a vital portion of its economy to be held hostage by an outdated federal law that has failed to achieve the purpose for which it was intended; and

WHEREAS: With the expiration of the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act, Canada will once again have de facto veto authority over Alaska's cruise industry and, with it, a significant portion of Alaska's tourism economy; and

WHEREAS: On July 27, 2021, Congressman Don Young introduced the Tribal Tourism Sovereignty Act, H.R. 4733, which would establish that foreign-flagged passenger vessels that call on ports or places in the United States owned by federally-recognized Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Corporations would be compliant with the PVSA's foreign-stop requirement; and

WHEREAS: In Alaska, passage of the Tribal Tourism Sovereignty Act would mean that voyages would no longer have to stop in or originate in Canada and cruises could start and end in Alaska, maximizing their time in our state and opening new economic development opportunities for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The Tribal Tourism Sovereignty Act also would benefit tribal communities in the Lower 48 states by creating port development opportunities for Tribes in Washington, Oregon, the Great Lakes, the Northeast, and potentially other areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge Congress to enact the Tribal Tourism Sovereignty Act as a means of supporting Alaska's tourism economy and creating new economic development opportunities for Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge Congress to appropriate funding for Alaska Native tribes and Alaska Native Corporation to develop ports within their home communities.

SUBMITTED BY: HUNA TOTEM CORPORATION, SEALASKA CORPORATION/SEALASKA HERITAGE  
INSTITUTE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

# ANCSA/TRIBAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-22

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION EXPANDING SELF-GOVERNANCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) authorizes Tribes and Tribal organizations to be funded by the federal government to provide services that the Federal government would otherwise be obligated to provide due to the trust and treaty obligations of the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Self-determination and self-governance under the ISDEAA have led to a significant improvement in the daily lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The success of the ISDEAA prompted Congress in 2000 to establish permanent Tribal Self-Governance in the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Title V of the ISDEAA; and
- WHEREAS:** Title V authorizes participating Tribes to redesign IHS programs, and redirect funds supporting those programs, in any manner that the Tribes determine is in the best interest of their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** In Title VI of the ISDEAA, enacted in 2000, Congress envisioned expanding Self-Governance to include grant programs administered by other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and
- WHEREAS:** In 2003, HHS issued a study concluding such an expansion was feasible and identifying eleven HHS programs that could be integrated into Self-Governance; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2004, the Senate considered legislation to authorize a demonstration project implementing Title VI, but that legislation was not enacted; and
- WHEREAS:** Expansion of Self-Governance within HHS is the next logical step to promote tribal sovereignty improve health care services and has remained a top legislative priority of Tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes have drafted legislation, modeled on the 2004 Senate bill, that would establish a demonstration project expanding Self-Governance to specified programs administered by non-IHS agencies within HHS.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives fully support the introduction and enactment of legislation establishing a demonstration project to implement Title VI of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: RECOMMEND TO PASS

BOARD ACTION:

# OTHER

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 21-23

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

WHEREAS: the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 168 federally-recognized tribes, 166 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: for over 50 years, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) has ensured fairness for all in the justice system by providing access to free civil legal help for Alaskans who cannot afford it; and WHEREAS: civil legal aid protects the livelihood, health and safety of Alaskans and helps them to avoid eviction, illegal dismissal from employment, domestic violence, and denial of healthcare and lawful benefits; and

WHEREAS: civil legal aid protects the livelihood, health, and safety of Alaskans and helps them to avoid eviction, illegal dismissal from employment, domestic violence, and denial of healthcare and lawful benefits; and

WHEREAS: ALSC's lawyers in eleven offices around the state serve a population of over 108,650 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,600 Alaska Natives; and ALSC's lawyers in twelve offices and medical-legal partnership sites embedded within tribal healthcare facilities around the state serve a population of 131,270 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,504 Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: ALSC has been a strong ally of the Alaska Native community through landmark court cases such as *Alvarado v. State*, *Carle v. Carle*, *Aguchak v. Montgomery Ward*, *Allakaket v. Hickel*, *John v. Baker*; *State v. Native Village of Tanana*, *Simmonds v. Parks*, *Native Village of Tununak v. State of Alaska*, *State of Alaska v. Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*, *Akiakchak Native Community v. U.S. Department of the Interior*; and

WHEREAS: several regional nonprofits including: Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Nome and Kotzebue; and

WHEREAS: several regional for-profits have provided significant financial and in-kind support to ALSC's regional offices: including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, CIRI, Inc. Bering

Straits Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Doyon, Ltd, and the Sitnasuak Native Corporation; and

WHEREAS: several tribal governments including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian tribes of Alaska, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, the Nome Eskimo Community, and Orutsararmiut Native Council have also provided financial support for and partnered with ALSC; and

WHEREAS: since 1984 when ALSC received an appropriation from the state of Alaska of \$1.2 Million to serve a population of 41,000 people eligible for ALSC's services, the number of Alaskans eligible for ALSC's help has more than doubled, yet the state's current contribution to ALSC is less than what it was 38 years ago; and

WHEREAS: the state of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (FY) 2021, in the amount of \$711,000, which is far less than what is needed to assure that all Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

WHEREAS: the vast majority of ALSC's cases involve the basic human necessities of family safety, shelter, food, access to medical care, and income maintenance; and

WHEREAS: a 2017 report by the Alaska Court System Access to Justice Committee estimates that an individual Alaskan experiences 2.1 legal issues every eighteen months and ALSC's current funding levels only stretch far enough to help about 7,315 people living in over 200 communities each year; and

WHEREAS: ALSC must turn away over half of the qualified individuals each year with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and

WHEREAS: every additional \$100,000 of funding enables ALSC to directly benefit 182 more people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2021 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed State FY 2023 budget, and urge the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urge Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low-income Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION:

BOARD ACTION: