



2019 Annual AFN Convention Resolutions

Title	Name	Convention Action
SPECIAL RECOGNITION		
19-1	A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRED T. "TED" ANGASAN TO THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY AND FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE	PASS
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE		
19-2	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS BY UPHOLDING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES	PASS
19-3	A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN ALASKA VIA SMALL PLANE AND FERRY	A&P
19-4	URGING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY FOR TRIBES, TRIBAL ENTITIES AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS INTO THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM (FEHB)	A&P
19-5	LACK OF VETERINARY CARE IS AN UNMET PUBLIC HEALTH NEED IN RURAL ALASKA	A&P
19-6	STATE SUPPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	A&P
19-7	SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED TRIBAL SET-ASIDE IN THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUND	PASS
19-8	CALLING UPON THE INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISPROPORTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN	A&P

19-9	CALLING UPON CONGRESS PROMPTLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE JURISDICTION OF ALL TRIBAL NATIONS IN ALASKA TO PROSECUTE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND RELATED CRIMES IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES	A&P
19-11	MEDICAID: MEDICAID EXPANSION AS AN ADVOCACY PRIORITY FOR AFN	PASS
19-12	CALLING ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO AMEND GRANT APPLICATIONS TO REFLECT ALASKAN REALITY	PASS
19-13	STOPPING THE SILENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THE IMPACT ON ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE	A&P
19-14	SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH OUTPATIENT HOUSING IN RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES	A&P
19-15	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA	A&P
19-16	A RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS AND GAIN SUPPORT TO BACKHAUL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE OUT OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES AND TO RESPONSIBLY RECYCLE THEM	PASS
19-17	A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY TO REVERSE THE RATE INCREASES AT THE ALASKA PIONEER HOMES	A&P
19-18	FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA	PASS
19-19	A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER WORKING GROUP	A&P
19-20	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT	A&P
19-21	ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD AND HISTORICAL TRAUMA IN OUR NATIVE COMMUNITIES	PASS
19-22	REQUEST FOR THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THE 101 COLD CASE HOMICIDE VICTIMS	PASS
19-23	SUPPORTING S. 1703 & H.R. 3077 THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) OF 2019	PASS

19-24	URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TO RESTORE FUNDING TO THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM	PASS
19-25	SUPPORTING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITH AN APPROPRIATION AMOUNT OF \$23 MILLION	PASS
19-26	SUPPORTING INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS TO \$800 MILLION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (IHBG) WITH SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR INCREASES OF \$50 MILLION PER YEAR UNTIL INFLATIONARY REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED	PASS
19-27	SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)	PASS
19-28	SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE TRIBAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (TRIBAL HUD-VASH) UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND FOR CONGRESS TO PASS SENATE BILL S.257, THE TRIBAL HUD-VASH ACT	PASS
19-29	SUPPORTING \$100 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA), NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (NAHBG) COMPETITIVE FUNDING	A&P
19-30	SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIAN PROGRAMS AND FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS	PASS
EDUCATION		
19-31	RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)	PASS
19-32	PROVIDE ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN STATE	A&P
19-33	INVEST IN HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR RURAL, ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES	A&P

19-34	IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE STATE OF ALASKA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM	A&P
LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES		
19-36	CALLING FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MANAGE AND PROTECT 17B EASEMENTS THAT ARE ADJACENT TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE CORPORATIONS AND REGIONAL CORPORATION LANDS	A&P
19-37	SUPPORT FOR REINSTITUTING THE OCEAN RANGER PROGRAM TO PROTECT ALASKAN WATERS	PASS
19-38	IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATING THE OFFICE OF ENERGY COST SHARE WAIVER	PASS
19-40	A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES TO REEVALUATE THEIR WILDFIRE STRATEGIES AND RESPOND MORE RAPIDLY TO WILDFIRES NEAR VILLAGES	PASS
ECONOMIC		
19-41	PROMOTING ALASKA AND ALASKA NATIVE-OWNED BUSINESSES	PASS
ANCSA/TRIBAL		
19-42	LANDS IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES BEING HELD IN TRUST BY THE STATE OF ALASKA UNDER SEC. 14(C)(3) OF ANCSA	PASS
19-43	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LANDLESS SOUTHEAST NATIVE COMMUNITIES SEEKING LEGISLATION TO FORM ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) CORPORATIONS AND RECEIVE ANCSA BENEFITS, INCLUDING LAND SELECTION RIGHTS AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION	A&P
19-44	MAKING ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS WHOLE FOR RECONVEYANCES OF ANCSA LAND REQUIRED BY ANCSA SECTION 14(C)	PASS
19-45	A RESOLUTION URGING THE DELEGATION TO AMEND ANCSA TO ADDRESS TREATMENT OF INCOME FROM ANCSA CORPORATIONS AND SETTLEMENT TRUSTS	PASS
OTHER		

19-46	EXPANDING ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS	A&P
19-47	URGING FULL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM	PASS
19-48	ESTABLISHING NATIONAL FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND A FUNDING PRIORITY FOR ALL RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	PASS
19-49	AFN ENCOURAGES MATTEL TO INCLUDE ELIZABETH PERATROVICH IN INSPIRING WOMEN SERIES	PASS
19-50	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	PASS
19-51	SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION OF TRIBAL NATIONS' TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES	PASS
19-52	RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN ALASKA, URGING EVERY ALASKAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS, ENGAGING WITH THE STATE COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION	PASS
19-53	A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AND SATELLITE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE ARE FULLY FUNDED AND TO RESTORE ELIMINATED FUNDING TO CONTINUE OPERATIONAL SERVICE AND TO RESTORE FUNDING TO PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS OF CRITICAL SERVICES	PASS
19-54	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (ASCA)	A&P
19-55	GOOD GOVERNMENT, ALASKAN DRIVEN	PASS
ELDERS AND YOUTH		
19-56	DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALASKA	A&P
19-57	PROTECT CLEAN WATER AND WATER DEPENDENT SPECIES	A&P
19-58	A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ESTABLISHING DREAM CENTERS IN EACH VILLAGE TO CREATE A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO SLEEP	PASS

19-59	A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE TEACHING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION WITH FUNDING	AMEND
19-60	REQUESTING SUPPORT FIVE FOCUS AREAS IN ALASKA – COMPACTING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDS	PASS
19-61	CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO INCORPORATE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND SOLUTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS	A&P
19-62	UPDATE ALASKA HISTORY CURRICULUM	PASS
SUSPENSION OF THE RULES		
19-63	A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV), TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DMV SERVICES IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES	PASS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-1

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRED T. “TED” ANGASAN TO THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY AND FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 half a century Ted Angasan has dedicated his time, effort, and wisdom to serving Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan was born in South Naknek in Bristol Bay; his public service began in 1966 and spans the decades since then; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan’s work includes forming and serving as the Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation in 1966, one of the founders of the Bristol Bay Native Association and served as its Executive Director, and was the chairman of the BBNA Board and Executive Board for many years, and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan currently serves on the South Naknek Village Council and is its Representative to the BBNA Board, continues to represent BBNA and chairs the RurAL CAP Board, is a member of his village corporation Board, and is currently the vice chairman of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan was involved in negotiating the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and witnessed President Nixon sign the legislation in 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan was one of the five original incorporators of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation in 1971, and implemented the land selection process in the Bristol Bay Region; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan has been involved with AFN for over 50 years, participated in the 1st AFN Convention in 1966, and served in a variety of positions on the AFN Board.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN recognizes Ted Angasan for his accomplishments, leadership, his long

standing dedication to the Alaska Native community and the Bristol Bay region;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives thank Ted Angasan for being a leader in his community and for his many years of tireless service.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
BOARD ACTION: SEND TO FLOOR
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-2

- TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS BY UPHOLDING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Article VII of the Alaska State Constitution requires the state to provide for public welfare; and
- WHEREAS:** Article I, Section 1, of the Alaska Constitution, which provides ‘this constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law;’ and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has inadequately resourced and established a public safety system in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** 70 Alaskan communities currently have no law enforcement presence at all;
- WHEREAS:** Rural Alaskans, tired of living in fear for their public safety, are increasingly demanding a public safety system and emergency response time on par with urban Alaska to protect rural life and property; and
- WHEREAS:** There are disproportionately high rates of violence and homicide committed against Alaska Native and American Indian women and girls statewide; and
- WHEREAS:** U.S. Attorney General William Barr declared a federal law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska after visiting rural Native villages in June 2019;
- WHEREAS:** The federal response may be short-term and, therefore, needs to be augmented by long-term state measures.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention thanks U.S. Attorney General Barr for issuing the historic emergency declaration, and urges continued federal attention and response to the public safety crisis in rural Alaska for at least the next decade; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention respectfully request the State of Alaska respond to U.S. Attorney General Barr's emergency federal declaration by declaring a corresponding state emergency, providing law enforcement in every community in Alaska, and uphold its constitutional responsibilities for public safety to all Alaskans.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: SEND TO FLOOR
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-3

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN ALASKA VIA SMALL PLANE AND FERRY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** little or no screening of cargo or passengers takes place for Alaska Marine Highway, small plane, or other vessel passengers for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol intended for distribution; and
- WHEREAS:** local municipal and Tribal law enforcement officers and Village Public Safety Officers lack the resources to effectively stem the tide of drugs into their community once they arrive via ferry, small plane, or other vessel; and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska and the federal United States government has a responsibility to the people and communities of Alaska to take effective measures to curb the drug epidemic, especially when it involves transportation of drugs and alcohol between communities and between states.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention requests that the State of Alaska and United States government contribute mandatory resources to work collaboratively with federal authorities to implement a comprehensive system to screen cargo and passengers of Alaska Marine Highway ferries, small planes and other marine vessels for the presence of illegal drugs intended for distribution.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-4

- TITLE:** URGING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY FOR TRIBES, TRIBAL ENTITIES AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS INTO THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM (FEHB)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Affordable Care Act is limited in that it only allows Tribes and ANCSA Corporations carrying out programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to purchase Federal Employee Health Benefits coverage for their employees; and
- WHEREAS:** Such limitation unduly restricts certain Tribes and Alaska Native corporations from participating in the FEHB Program simply because such entity does not currently carry out an ISDEAA contract; and
- WHEREAS:** Requiring ISDEAA contracts creates instability for current Tribal and Alaska Native corporations that are enrolled in the FEHB Program who may not have an ISDEAA contract in the future; and
- WHEREAS:** If Congress passed a law allowing Tribes, Tribal Entities, and Alaska Native corporations automatic eligibility into the FEHB Program, such a law would significantly alleviate unnecessary and burdensome regulatory procedures to enter the FEHB Program and would serve a core purpose of ANCSA, which is to address the “real economic and social needs” of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Under ANCSA, Alaska Native corporations are considered socially and economically disadvantaged for purposes of government contracting in order to overcome economic development barriers and benefit entire communities and regions of economically and socially disadvantaged people; and

WHEREAS: Automatic eligibility into the FEHB Program would provide Tribes, Tribal Entities, and Alaska Native corporations an additional way to overcome social and economic barriers and ultimately better serve Alaska Native people and communities; and

WHEREAS: The rising costs of health insurance is negatively impacting Tribes and ANCSA Corporations ability to recruit and retain talent; and

WHEREAS: The cost of healthcare and health insurance continues to rise negatively impacting ANCSA corporations' profitability and ability to provide benefits to its Shareholders and serve government customers; and

WHEREAS: Oftentimes ANCSA corporation employees are embedded at government contractor worksites working alongside federal government employees who receive FEHB Program benefits; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA corporations participating in government contracting lose employees to the government, many times due to the benefits package the government offers through the FEHB Program; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA Corporations lose valuable employees to larger government contractors with more robust health benefits due to the size of these large businesses; and

WHEREAS: Small ANCSA corporations often are limited in health benefits options for their employees thereby creating a significant disadvantage when competing for talented employees who ultimately perform services for the government; and

WHEREAS: Allowing ANCSA corporations to be automatically eligible for FEHB would provide a viable option for a robust and meaningful health benefits program while serving government customers and providing economic development opportunities to Alaska Native Corporations; and

WHEREAS: Allowing automatic FEHB eligibility would be mutually beneficial because Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations would be more competitive providing the best value at a lower cost to the government through proposal pricing and employee retention, while Alaska Native people and communities would benefit because Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations would be able to maintain or increase profitability due to the lower costs due to participation in the FEHB Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation to include language to allow those Tribes, Tribal Entities, Alaska Native Regional, Urban and Village corporations that are

not eligible to be automatically eligible to purchase Federal Employee Health Benefits coverage for any employees regardless of whether such entity is carrying out an ISDEAA contract.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-5

- TITLE:** LACK OF VETERINARY CARE IS AN UNMET PUBLIC HEALTH NEED IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 proper handling, treatment and use and care of animals, particularly dogs are important features in our cultural/traditional lifestyle; and
- WHEREAS:** There is currently no regular access to veterinary care in most of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** This lack of access to veterinary care has created an ongoing and unrecognized threat to both animal and public health; and
- WHEREAS:** Access to adequate healthcare represents an important trust responsibility between the federal government and the tribes of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska Native people live in fear of rabies exposure and dog-bites to children. Zoonotic disease, parasites, Parvo, Distemper and over populations of stray dogs can be controlled with adequate veterinary service; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people understand that their health and wellbeing is impacted by the health of the animals they keep; and
- WHEREAS:** The interdependence and inseparable nature of Human, animal, and environmental health has always been a central theme of Indigenous Worldview; and
- WHEREAS:** The current Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners has been ineffective in providing or promoting access to animal health care in Rural Alaska and is often-times a barrier.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention officially declares access to veterinary care as an unmet public healthcare need in Alaska Native Communities.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2019 Annual AFN Convention declare that this unmet public healthcare need be addressed through multiple avenues including the creation and implementation of a tribally run State Board of Veterinary Examiners of a rural veterinary board to address the unmet needs of animal health and in providing or promoting access to this much needed public health service in Rural Alaska.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY AND NENANA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-6

- TITLE:** STATE SUPPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 needs to ensure rural families have access to behavioral health services without unnecessary barriers and long wait times; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska needs residential treatment centers located throughout the state that are capable of meeting treatment needs for both adults and children, and to ensure that individuals have adequate aftercare services at the time of discharge; and
- WHEREAS:** The State needs to ensure that the treatment centers have adequate staffing and providers who are trained to support patients' mental health needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The State must ensure adequate funding is provided to rural Alaska to ensure that behavioral health needs for residents are being met, that residents do not have to leave their villages, and that they have access to clinicians who reside in their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State needs to fund increased clinical providers in hospital settings, clinics, and schools throughout Alaska that can adequately respond to behavioral health issues; and
- WHEREAS:** Managed by the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) provides emergency and court-ordered inpatient psychiatric services in a safe environment using culturally-sensitive, effective, person-centered treatment followed by a referral to an appropriate level of care and support for recovery from mental illness, addiction; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska needs to have a behavioral health system that is not in crisis and guarantees that it is meeting the needs of residents; a system that allows adults and children to receive treatment in their State and not have to seek

treatment from out-of-state providers; a system that is diverse and allows the growth for more providers in rural Alaska.

WHEREAS: Medicaid services provided by the Alaska Tribal Health System to Alaska Native/American Indian people are reimbursed to the state at 100% FMAP requirements. These services are completely budget neutral to the state and reduces uncompensated care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention advocate for the State of Alaska to fully support the Alaska Psychiatric Institute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for the tribal health organizations to establish rural and tribal behavioral health programs with State and federal funding developed in collaboration with each community; and restore funding cuts to Community Behavioral Health Grants and approve the use of already established cultural facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN acknowledges that Alaska has the highest rate of suicide and advocate for the State to provide reimbursement to regional health and social service organizations that provide temporary behavioral health services until such time as a bed at API can be secured and/or new regional treatment centers can be opened and placements at API and other facilities are made available in rural communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN Advocate for the State of Alaska to support Medicaid payment for behavioral health services provided through the Alaska Tribal Health System, especially in rural communities.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-7

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED TRIBAL SET-ASIDE IN THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUND
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to provide tribal-specific responses and services with federal and state resources; 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:** All nations, including tribal sovereign nations honor, respect, and hold sacred our Native women; retain our inherent right to live according to our life-affirming customs and traditions which regulates respectful boundaries for relationships among villagers; and
- WHEREAS:** the Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), was initially established to address the need for victim services programs, and to assist tribal, state, and local governments in providing appropriate services to their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress passed the Victims of Crimes Act more than thirty years ago and did not include Indian tribes in the original distribution of funds; and
- WHEREAS:** the Fund is financed by collections of fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures from defendants convicted of Federal crimes, but until now, tribes have only been eligible to receive a very small portion of the discretionary funding from the Fund; and
- WHEREAS:** in FY 2000, Congress began limiting the amount of Fund deposits that could be obligated each year. This was to provide a stable level of funding available for these programs in future years despite annual fluctuations in Fund deposits; and
- WHEREAS:** in 2019 and as a result the Fund now holds balances in excess of \$10 billion under the current spending cap to last 12 years; and
- WHEREAS:** OVC and OJP officials have recognized the great need to strengthen victims' services on tribal lands and, thus, are proposing this new set-aside to help meet that need; and National Congress of American Indians at the 2014 Mid-Year

Session passed Resolution ANC-14-048 called for a tribal set aside for direct funding to tribes; and

WHEREAS: for the first time ever a tribal set-aside was established in 2018 in the amount of 3%, and 5% for 2019;

WHEREAS: the new tribal funding is requested as part of OVC's Vision 21 Initiative, a strategic planning initiative based on an 18-month national assessment by OJP that systematically engaged the crime victim advocacy field and other stakeholder groups in assessing current and emerging challenges and opportunities facing the field; and

WHEREAS: Indian nations and tribal service providers require essential resources to respond to violence perpetrated against American Indian and Alaska Native women, as well as to provide services to women victims seeking assistance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention hereby support the increase in the amount of money released from the Crime Victim's Fund to include a dedicated funding stream for Alaska Natives and American Indian tribes to meet the dire needs of tribal victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AFN does hereby support the creation of an "above the cap" reserve in the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), or alternatively, a 5% VOCA tribal set-aside, that would fund tribes and tribal government programs according to their laws, customs and traditions and non-profit, non-governmental tribal organizations, located within the jurisdictional boundaries of an Indian reservation, Alaska Native Villages, and Indian areas that provide services to Native women victimized by domestic and/or sexual violence.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-8

- TITLE:** CALLING UPON THE INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE, FEDERAL, and LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISPROPORTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 special government-to-government relationship between the federal and tribal governments set forth in the United States Constitution was reaffirmed in a historic 1994 Memorandum by President Bill Clinton, who called upon all heads of departments to administer activities affecting Native communities “in a knowledgeable, sensitive manner respectful of tribal sovereignty,” and with “[consultation] of Tribal governments prior to taking action . . . all such consultations are to be open and candid so that all interested parties may evaluate for themselves the potential impact of relevant proposals;” and
- WHEREAS:** on account of systemic oppression and institutional racism, Indigenous people in the United States are subject to disproportionately high rates of structural violence, homelessness, poverty, income inequality, death, and poor health and education outcomes, including barriers to employment, education, housing, health and mental health treatment, social services, and judicial services; and
- WHEREAS:** federal relocation and termination policies forced Indigenous people from their traditional lands into urban areas, resulting in separation from family, clan, community, cultural institutions, and sacred sites; and
- WHEREAS:** a lack of recognition and awareness of these issues, through the perpetuation of colonialism, has led to historical and intergenerational trauma that continues to adversely affect Indigenous individuals, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** a recent study found that four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls experience violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS: a recent study further found that in some places, American Indian and Alaska Native women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS: according to the Violent Death Reporting System, Alaska Natives and American Indians made up 29.1 % of the homicide victims in Alaska between 2003 and 2008, with the 20-29 age group seeing the largest number of murders—22.1%. In addition, during that time period Alaska Native and American Indian women represented 38% of the overall deaths, with a firearm being the number one cause killing our women—29%. Moreover, most of the deaths were non-domestic violence relate—86.1%; and

WHEREAS: there is a strong indication that underreporting and racial misclassification have resulted in poor data about these missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIW); and

WHEREAS: no data has been collected and publicly released on rates of violence among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in urban areas, even though approximately 71% of American Indians and Alaska Natives live in urban areas; and

WHEREAS: the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), a tribal epidemiology center located in Seattle and a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB), conducted a study that was the first national attempt aimed at assessing the number of cases of MMIW across 71 cities in the United States and found Anchorage to be one of the cities with the highest number of MMIW cases among the study area; and

WHEREAS: the same MMIW study revealed the severe lack of quality data and accessibility of data on violence against Native communities including racial misclassification and inconsistent data collection and reporting practices among law enforcement agencies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the state, federal, and local governments to build upon the historic emergency law enforcement declaration in rural Alaska issued by U.S. Attorney General William Barr in June 2019 to determine—in consultation and collaboration with the Alaska Native community—how to increase criminal justice protection and identify resources for reporting and identifying MMIW; and

Be it further resolved, that tribal governments be notified and periodically apprised of its tribal citizens who are missing and murdered and violence against our women; similar to how the State notifies tribes similar to ICWA

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such consultation and collaboration shall be conducted pursuant to the federal/tribal government-to-government relationship, which the State of Alaska and local governments should follow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the media recognize victims of murder and their families deserve respectful representation, absent of victim shaming which shifts blame away from the perpetrator, and creates a targeted class, and can poison a potential jury pool; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention request an update to be presented at the 2020 Annual AFN convention on the progress of identifying and addressing disproportionately high rate of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the state, federal, and local Alaska governments to immediately create a 1-800 statewide phone number to log all missing person's cases with pertinent information; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that information collected through the new 1-800 number be inserted into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and National Missing Unidentified Persons System (NaMus) with established protocols no later than 72 hours from receiving the report and any information about tribal status shall be collected and provided to the tribal government.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-9

- TITLE:** CALLING UPON CONGRESS TO PROMPTLY TO ENACT “THE ALASKA TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPOWERMENT ACT” LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE JURISDICTION OF ALL TRIBAL NATIONS IN ALASKA TO PROSECUTE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND RELATED CRIMES IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to provide tribal-specific responses and services with federal and state resources; 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:** domestic violence rates in Alaska are ten times the national average, sexual assaults against Alaska Native women are 12 times the national average, and many offenders are non-Native; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are over-represented by 250 percent among domestic violence victims, considering that Alaska Natives comprise just 19 percent of the state population; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are 47 percent of reported rape victims and every 18 hours an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted; and
- WHEREAS:** one out of every four Alaska Native youth suffers post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to childhood exposure to violence – the same rate as Afghanistan War veterans; and
- WHEREAS:** the suicide rate in rural Alaska is six times the national rate, alcohol-related mortality rate is 3.5 times the national rate, and 95 percent of rural crimes are alcohol related; and
- WHEREAS:** state-based law enforcement is virtually nonexistent in most Alaska Native villages, tribal and urban communities, because state troopers are only present in hub cities, and state-funded Village Public Safety Officers are only present in 42 out of 229 Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act resulted in confusion regarding tribal jurisdiction in Alaska, while concurrent with the State of Alaska, and most

crimes do not occur on the few remaining lands that constitute the definition of “Indian country” under federal law (i.e., allotments, townsite lots, and trust lands); and

WHEREAS: effective tribal jurisdiction in rural Alaska has been further eroded by absent or gravely insufficient resources for tribal nations in Public Law 280 States for tribal justice responses, including but not limited to tribal law enforcement and tribal courts; and

WHEREAS: the Supreme Court in *Alaska v Native Village of Venetie* held that lands conveyed to Native corporations under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act do not qualify as “Indian country” under federal law; and

WHEREAS: the 2013 Indian 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.” Without a strong law enforcement presence, crime in Alaska Native villages occurs with impunity; and

WHEREAS: the 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission report states: “The strongly centralized law enforcement and justice systems of the State of Alaska...do not serve local and Native communities adequately, if at all. The Commission believes that devolving authority to Alaska Native communities is essential for addressing local crime. Their governments are best positioned to effectively arrest, prosecute, and punish, and they should have the authority to do so – or to work out voluntary agreements with each other, and with local governments and the State on mutually beneficial terms”; and

WHEREAS: on June 28th, 2019, U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska under the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance recognizing that Alaska has the highest per capita crime rate in the country and the unique circumstances of Alaska’s geographical and jurisdictional landscape, the Attorney General authorized additional funding and several long-term measures to support village public safety and victim services; and

WHEREAS: to take full advantage of this unprecedented emergency declaration of public safety in rural Alaska, loopholes in tribal jurisdiction in rural Alaska must be closed and tribal jurisdiction legally corrected to apply to all persons, Native and non-Native alike; and

WHEREAS: most federal jurisdictional, data gathering and other public safety laws reference application of the laws to a tribal nation’s “Indian country,” which applies to only 1 out of the 229 tribes in Alaska because of the complicated jurisdictional landscape, which effectively leaves out tribal nations in Alaska and their communities; and

WHEREAS: the Department of Justice has found that one in three Native women is sexually assaulted in her lifetime and that 70 percent of reported assaults are committed by non-Native men against Native women. A community response to domestic and family violence is necessary because domestic and family violence crimes and incidents impact the community as a whole. These crimes redirect Tribal resources – whether personnel, financial, public safety or other resources – elsewhere and require an immediate response. As a result of this impact on Tribal resources, it is necessary to address domestic and family violence to the fullest extent permitted by laws existing now or as may be adopted or amended in the future and we call on such an immediate amendment; and

WHEREAS: tribal nations in Alaska want to work in collaboration with state and federal authorities to best exercise effective concurrent tribal, federal, and state jurisdiction in response to crimes; and

WHEREAS: in 2019 the House, at the request of Congressman Don Young (AK-R), included an amendment to the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 1585) which would authorize certain villages to exercise criminal jurisdiction over certain domestic and sexual violence-related offenses against all persons present within an Alaska Native village; and

WHEREAS: the population of more than 100 Alaska Native villages is 70 percent or more Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS: recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska over all persons continues the United States' commitment to maximizing tribal self-determination and self-governance and addressing dangerous public safety concerns in Alaska and Section 901 of VAWA 2005 includes the dire need to improve the safety of Native women and to increase the provision to Indian tribes of criminal justice and victim services resources that respond to violence against Indian women, as well as to fulfill the "Federal trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives of Indian women"; and

WHEREAS: Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires countries to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy full protection against all forms of violence and discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon Congress to promptly enact "The Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act":

1. the urgent public safety crisis in Alaska Native communities, specifically in connection with matters concerning domestic and dating violence, sex trafficking, sexual violence, stalking, obstruction of justice, and assault upon law enforcement and corrections officers (all as listed in H.R. 1585), and drug-, alcohol- and child-abuse-related offenses; and

2. the concurrent criminal and civil territorial jurisdiction of federally recognized tribal nations in Alaska over all lands and persons within Alaska Native villages; and
3. such jurisdiction either to be automatic for any village having at least 70 percent Alaska Native population or to be recognized on an expedited pilot project basis of no fewer than five Tribes per year for the next 10 years with resources and structure similar to the 903 provisions of VAWA 2013.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY AND TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-11

- TITLE:** MEDICAID: MEDICAID EXPANSION AS AN ADVOCACY PRIORITY FOR AFN
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 and the Alaska Tribal Health System rely on Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion to fulfill vital health services across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Medicaid Expansion has proven to be good for the Alaskan economy and Alaskans, with over thirty thousand Alaskans, a substantial percentage of which are Alaska Native, obtaining access to health care through Medicaid Expansion and hundreds of businesses being reimbursed through Medicaid; and
- WHEREAS:** Medicaid expenditures for services provided by or referred by a Tribal health provider is 100% reimbursable through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) provided by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), meaning the State's General Fund is fully reimbursed for services rendered to Alaska Native beneficiaries within the tribal health system; and
- WHEREAS:** Congressional appropriations for the Indian Health Services is significantly underfunded, Medicaid plays a critical role in filling in the massive shortfall, covering more than one in four adult Alaska Natives and half of Alaska Native children; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans, are more likely to live in areas with limited job opportunities and other barriers to employment and work requirements don't account for the critical jobs within the subsistence economies of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** to date, an overall increase of 18.3% in the State's Medicaid Transportation Expenditures from FY 2016 to FY 2017, the portion paid with State General Funds actually decreased by 69.3%; this equates to a savings to the State of tens of millions in General Fund expenditures; and

WHEREAS: Medicaid Expansion allows for increased timely and localized health services to Alaskans deserve access to health care; and

WHEREAS: Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion support the hotel and airline industry and contribute to significant economic impacts including 4,000 jobs, \$230 million in additional labor income, and \$510 million in economic output brought to the State; and

WHEREAS: Governor Dunleavy vetoed \$77 million from Medicaid services in addition to \$80 million cut by the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS: Governor Dunleavy has announced that his Administration seeks to convert Medicaid into a block grant, which would have significant adverse impacts on the healthcare of Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention to prioritize continued Medicaid expansion for all mandatory coverage groups, including expansion of adults; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will advocate against the implementation of Medicaid work requirements.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-12

- TITLE:** CALLING ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO AMEND GRANT APPLICATIONS TO REFLECT ALASKAN REALITY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 United States Department of Justice offers several granting opportunities to tribes for law enforcement and victims services, including: Community Oriented Policing, Tribal Access Program, and the Office of Victims of Crime; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaskan Tribes are in dire need of these federal dollars for public safety and victims services, so much so that U.S. Attorney General William Barr declared a public safety emergency in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** due to the unique nature of Alaska’s tribal government structure, application for Department of Justice grants is challenging; and
- WHEREAS:** there is a need for advocacy within the Department of Justice to ensure Alaska Tribes will be eligible for grants ; and
- WHEREAS:** the majority of current Department of Justice grant solicitations do not allow tribal consortiums to apply on behalf of tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** the funding caps in Department of Justice grant solicitations do not fit the need and high cost of living in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** the allowable/unallowable costs under these programs do not reflect Alaska specific needs such as the need for law enforcement travel costs for escorting victims to child advocacy centers and/or hospital for forensic interviewing and exams; the need for law enforcement to assist in response to child welfare investigations for safety of tribal social services staff; the need to assist state law enforcement in promptly responding to crime scenes to secure evidence; the need to provide shelter services in hub communities due to the logistics of the criminal justice system in Alaska; the need to include search and rescue as a

public safety service, the need for culturally relevant healing activities utilizing Tribal Elders; the need to address generational trauma as a type of victimization.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention will work to educate the Department of Justice on the unique needs and differences of Alaska Tribes in responding to rural Alaska public safety needs and issues, as well as inform them on the accurate financial needs of Alaska Tribes to be able to address these issues and implement public safety programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN shall advocate for grant solicitations to be amended to prevent Alaska Tribes from being excluded from grant opportunities and promote a process of identifying special considerations for Alaska Tribal grant applicants prior to grant award selections.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-13

- TITLE:** STOPPING THE SILENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THE IMPACT ON ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to provide tribal-specific responses and services with federal and state resources; 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:** sexual assaults against Alaska Native women are 12 times the national average, and many offenders are non-Native; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are over-represented by 250 percent among domestic violence victims, considering that Alaska Natives comprise just 19 percent of the state population; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are 47 percent of reported rape victims and every 18 hours an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted; and
- WHEREAS:** sexual assault is not the victim's fault, it has contributed to the high suicide rate in Alaska Native populations, the alcohol and drug epidemic within Alaska Native populations; and
- WHEREAS:** lack of resources such as Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) and forensic response, creates an environment of no ability for valid evidence collection; and
- WHEREAS:** state-based law enforcement is virtually nonexistent in most Alaska Native villages because state troopers are only present in hub cities, and state-funded Village Public Safety Officers are only present in 42 out of 229 Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** the 2013 Indian 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." Without a strong law enforcement presence, crime in Alaska Native villages occurs with impunity; and

- WHEREAS: the 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission report states: “The strongly centralized law enforcement and justice systems of the State of Alaska...do not serve local and Native communities adequately, if at all. The Commission believes that devolving authority to Alaska Native communities is essential for addressing local crime. Their governments are best positioned to effectively arrest, prosecute, and punish, and they should have the authority to do so – or to work out voluntary agreements with each other, and with local governments and the State on mutually beneficial terms”; and
- WHEREAS: on June 28th, 2019, U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska under the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance recognizing that Alaska has the highest per capita crime rate in the country and the unique circumstances of Alaska’s geographical and jurisdictional landscape, the Attorney General authorized additional funding and several long-term measures to support village public safety and victim services; and
- WHEREAS: to take full advantage of this unprecedented emergency declaration of public safety in rural Alaska, loopholes in tribal jurisdiction in rural Alaska must be closed and tribal jurisdiction legally corrected to apply to all persons, Native and non-Native alike; and
- WHEREAS: most federal jurisdictional, data gathering and other public safety laws reference application of the laws to a tribal nation’s “Indian country,” which applies to only 1 out of the 229 tribes in Alaska because of the complicated jurisdictional landscape, which effectively leaves out tribal nations in Alaska and their communities, and
- WHEREAS: the Department of Justice has found that one in three Native women is sexually assaulted in her lifetime and that 70 percent of reported assaults are committed by non-Native men against Native women. A community response to domestic and family violence is necessary because domestic and family violence crimes and incidents impact the community as a whole. These crimes redirect Tribal resources – whether personnel, financial, public safety or other resources – elsewhere and require an immediate response. As a result of this impact on Tribal resources, it is necessary to address domestic and family violence to the fullest extent permitted by laws existing now or as may be adopted or amended in the future and we call on such an immediate amendment; and
- WHEREAS: tribal nations in Alaska want to work in collaboration with state and federal authorities to best exercise effective concurrent tribal, federal, and state jurisdiction in response to crimes; and
- WHEREAS: recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska over all persons continues the United States’ commitment to maximizing tribal self-determination and self-governance and addressing dangerous public safety concerns in Alaska and Section 901 of VAWA 2005 includes the dire need to improve the safety of

Native women and to increase the provision to Indian tribes of criminal justice and victim services resources that respond to violence against Indian women, as well as to fulfill the “Federal trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives of Indian women”; and

WHEREAS: Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires countries to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy full protection against all forms of violence and discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention call upon Congress and the State of Alaska to make processing of rape kits in a timely manner a priority, assist tribal communities in their efforts to ban perpetrators from communities; prosecution of sex offender and sex traffickers as a priority; and make sexual assault training for counselor’s, teachers, school staff, health workers a mandatory requirement.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Judicial System needs to be bolstered. This includes the capacity of the District Attorney’s Office to prosecute these cases and the ability of the Public Defender Agency and other defense agencies to do their parts. This will ensure due process for both the victims and the defendants. Funding for prosecutors, publicly funded defense attorneys and the infrastructure of the court system must be increased to an adequate level to achieve the purposes of this resolution.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ANVIK TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-14

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH OUTPATIENT HOUSING IN RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** on December 18, 1971, Congress passed the Public Law 92-203 titled the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. With the enactment of ANCSA, Village and Regional Corporations were added to the network of Native organizations addressing Native needs economically having political implications for Alaska Native self-governance; and
- WHEREAS:** the Department of the Interior, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and all federal agencies shall hereafter consult with the Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Department of Commerce acknowledges the policy commitments of the U.S Congress and the Chief Executive as precedence; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA Village Corporations have the task of improving the social and economic status of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** For example, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel administers healthcare throughout 58 rural communities and administers delivery system and outpatient housing in Qavartarvik Hostel which is part of the Travel Management Center; and
- WHEREAS:** the village outpatients traveling to Bethel Hospital are placed in Bethel motels when Qavartarvik Hostel rooms are unavailable, where there is no adequate

sanitation or shower and experience sleeplessness due to the intoxicated people making noise.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Indian Health Services and Congress to support and advocate for the development of the regional health outpatient housing in rural Alaska such as the Qavartarvik Hostel in Bethel, Alaska.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: NAPASKIAK VILLAGE CORPORATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-15

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** on December 18, 1971, Congress passed the Public Law 92-203 titled the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. With the enactment of ANCSA, Village and Regional Corporations were added to the network of Native organizations addressing Native needs economically having political implications for Alaska Native self-governance; and
- WHEREAS:** the Department of the Interior, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and all federal agencies shall hereafter consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Department of Commerce acknowledges the policy commitments of the U.S. Congress and the Chief Executive as precedence; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA Village Corporations have the task of improving the social and economic status of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supports to provide critically needed technical assistance to distressed communities with populations under 40,000, including those located in Opportunity Zones and communities struggling to recover from natural disasters; and
- WHEREAS:** the technical assistance provided to these communities will help local planners deploy a variety of federal resources to stimulate job growth and economic recovery for the benefit of their citizens, and affordable housing in distressed communities; and

WHEREAS: for example, a large number of communities in the Calista Region are among the distressed community status based on the residents minimum wage classified by the Denali Commission; and

WHEREAS: the Calista Regional communities have the highest unemployment with its growing population, with the highest cost of utility and fuel rates making it unaffordable for the low income and unemployed in need of homes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development to consult with tribes, tribal designated housing entities, and Alaska Natives organizations on the housing needs in rural Alaska and increase its outreach to rural communities and low income residents on the programs and services that are available through HUD.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: NAPASKIAK VILLAGE CORPORATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-16

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS AND GAIN SUPPORT TO BACKHAUL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE OUT OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES AND TO RESPONSIBLY RECYCLE THEM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** all communities produce waste such as spent batteries and electronics which can be hazardous to human health and the environment when they are improperly disposed of and subsequently deteriorated; and
- WHEREAS:** there are no safe ways to discard household hazardous waste in rural landfills, as rural Class III landfills are unlined, often unpermitted, and the infrastructure is not designed to prevent contaminant release into the surrounding water, land, and air; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN represents a group of people who are intimately tied to the land through year-round subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering, and whose subsistence activities provide a physical, mental, and spiritual connection to the land; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska communities do not have, and cannot afford to construct, the storage infrastructure to separate and keep these wastes indefinitely; and
- WHEREAS:** because communities cannot indefinitely store these wastes, they must transport them to recyclers, employing the act of backhauling, or the hauling back, of wastes; and
- WHEREAS:** rural Alaska communities are small, remote, have relatively little economic base and are unable on their own to afford the full cost of waste management, transport, and recycling required to backhaul these wastes to recycling companies; and
- WHEREAS:** substantial waste management and backhaul expertise is available in some individual communities and working models for regionally-coordinated efforts exist, backhaul Alaska, a statewide coordination program, is in pilot phase and

through that program the knowledge needed to efficiently, and sustainably provide safe backhaul opportunities to all our rural communities exists, but to do so successfully will require political will and support in developing the effort.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention will advocate for better management of these wastes that pose serious risks to our health and subsistence way of life when hazardous waste is discarded in rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will urge local, state, federal, and private partners to join us in supporting household hazardous waste backhaul programs and projects that can safely collect, store, transport, and recycle these wastes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is recommended that AFN will form a rural waste backhaul subcommittee to explore potential avenues in which AFN member organizations can contribute to safe and affordable backhaul of these wastes.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-17

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY TO REVERSE THE RATE INCREASES AT THE ALASKA PIONEER HOMES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Alaska Pioneer Homes are state-operated assisted living facilities for older Alaskans, in six locations around the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Although state subsidized, they have always charged fees ranging from about \$2,600 per month to nearly \$7,000 per month depending on the level of care required; however, the actual payments are based on ability to pay with residents expected to pay as much as possible from their own resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Dunleavy's Administration, in an attempt to recover the full costs of providing services, recently announced a dramatic increase in rates ranging from a 40% increase to a 120% increase, depending on the class of care, with the highest rates topping out at \$15,000 per month; the rate increases were scheduled to take effect September 1; and
- WHEREAS:** It is unclear the rate increase will actually save the state money, as it may simply drive people who have more resources and options out of the Pioneer Homes, leaving it for people who have to be fully subsidized by the state or federal governments; and
- WHEREAS:** The large increase imposed all at once is extremely unfair to retirees who may have carefully planned their long-term assisted living care based on the prior system, and adversely impact their health by forcing them out of the facilities and increasing stress; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska House passed HB 96 which would reverse the rate increases, but it

has not passed the Senate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Dunleavy Administration to reverse its decision on Pioneer Home rates and revert to the prior monthly rates and urge the Legislature to solidify our elders safety and security through a permanent statutory fix to subsidize the care of our most honored citizens.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-18

- TITLE:** FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Article 3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, proclaims: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”; and
- WHEREAS:** Public safety is a basic need of communities in Rural Alaska, including protection from the elements, security of the person and property, freedom of fear, existence of law and order, control of harmful substances, access to emergency resources, and stability; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and Tribal members in Rural Alaska have experienced significant hardship from the widespread unavailability or underprovision of public safety services in their communities compared to other areas of Alaska and the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a public safety crisis in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** A need has been identified for public safety buildings in rural Alaska to be repaired, replaced, or constructed; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress passed Public Law 83-280 in 1953 mandating that the allocation of civil and criminal jurisdiction enjoyed by the federal government over Native peoples in Alaska shall pass to the state government; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress additionally enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 extinguishing our Tribes’ aboriginal title to their land and eliminating territorial jurisdiction as a basis for our Tribes to levy taxes or engage in other land-based revenue regimes; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska is now primarily responsible for ensuring public safety services are provided to villages of Rural Alaska through the Department of Public Safety (DPS); and

WHEREAS: Tribes in Rural Alaska deserve the same resources, authority, and protections afforded to Tribes in the Lower 48 to provide law enforcement in their communities; and

WHEREAS: Tribal communities in the State of Alaska deserve the same standard of public safety provided to those on the road system and other communities around the State; and

WHEREAS: Adequate public safety infrastructure, including holding facilities, public safety office space, and public safety officer housing, is necessary for public safety in Rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls on the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska to each fulfill their obligations to Alaska Native Tribes and communities in Rural Alaska by adequately and equitably resourcing public safety infrastructure in Tribal communities in Rural Alaska.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-19

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER WORKING GROUP
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** There is a public safety crisis in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and a Borough operate the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in communities in Rural Alaska through a contract with the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In May 2018, the tribal contractors and the State of Alaska engaged in a Statewide VPSO meeting; and
- WHEREAS:** At the conclusion of that meeting, the VPSO tribal contractors and the State of Alaska agreed on a strategy with five components:
1. Improving communication through better branding, community engagement, and strengthening and building partnerships at all levels;
 2. Making a VPSO available in every community;
 3. Giving Tribal contractors the flexibility needed to provide public safety in a way that works for each individual region;
 4. Ensuring adequate funding for all Program needs;
 5. Defining the VPSO's role and responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS:** Instead of following the 2018 Strategic Plan, in 2019 the State of Alaska's Office of the Governor slashed the VPSO Program's budget and declined to give tribal contractors the flexibility they need; and
- WHEREAS:** the Alaska State Legislature has created a Village Public Safety Officer Working Group to provide substantive policy recommendations related to the VPSO Program for submittal to the Alaska Legislature no later than January 31, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention is in full support of the Alaska State Legislature VPSO Working Group and call on DPS to engage in strategic planning session.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls on the Alaska State Legislature to seek and consider the input of Alaska Tribes/Tribal entities that provide public safety services in their communities in its recommendations.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-20

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 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 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 experience in Alaska is that as tribes and tribal organizations acquire resources to more completely fulfill this inherent authority, the number of Indian children who become subject to the Alaska Office of Children’s Services (OCS) investigations and custody actions diminishes. In addition, when tribes and tribal organizations collaborate with or take on responsibilities for OCS, the outcomes improve; and
- WHEREAS:** tribes and tribal Organizations throughout Alaska operate robust child welfare programs, which assist and support families in need and children in the custody of OCS; and
- WHEREAS:** In rural Alaska, the OCS has staff concentrated in the hub locations and maintains a presence in only a handful of villages, and in some instances on a traveling/rotation basis; and
- WHEREAS:** OCS experiences high vacancy and turnover rates, coupled with short tenures, which increases the number of cases OCS workers must carry and decreases the continuity of supervision. The recommended national standard is 12 cases per worker. However, OCS workers carry at least 16 cases: 25% more than the national standard; and
- WHEREAS:** This lack of resources impedes the state’s ability to effectively address the problem of disproportionality among Alaska’s children in state custody that has existed since statehood; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and the State of Alaska share an obligation to protect Alaska’s Native children; and

WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations in Alaska form the backbone of the child welfare system, and OCS has depended for years on the tribes and tribal consortium staff to assist them in their work; and

WHEREAS: The state has recognized this fact for many years, and has tried at times to better integrate the tribal work through tribal/state collaborations; and

WHEREAS: Despite that work, there are still many administrative and systemic barriers to collaborative efforts in keeping Alaska Native children safe; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Compact) was signed in 2017 with overwhelming support from tribes and tribal organizations and the State; and

WHEREAS: This Compact was an enormous undertaking designed to transform the child welfare system, and pave the way for tribes and tribal organizations to provide services and support on behalf of OCS to improve the life outcomes of Alaska Native children in state custody; and

WHEREAS: Since the signing of the Compact in October 2017, the Tribal Co-Signers have committed thousands of staff hours and incurred significant expenses to negotiate detailed scopes of work to carry out the purpose of the Compact; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) supports the ongoing work of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, including the Tribal Co-Signers' ability to take on more activities through the adoption and implementation of additional scopes of work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN affirms its continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on the State of Alaska to fully implement the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, which will improve the outcomes for Alaska's children; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska legislature to enact a statute which mirrors the Indian Child Welfare Act with the purpose to circumvent potential threats to the federal statute.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-21

- TITLE:** ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD AND HISTORICAL TRAUMA IN OUR NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Prior to European conquest and colonization, we had healthy, thriving communities in which child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse and obesity were unheard of; and
- WHEREAS:** Through research on childhood and historical or intergenerational trauma, neuroscientists have now confirmed what Native people have always known, that the trauma caused by the near-destruction of our way of life beginning several hundred years ago continues to harm us today and is the underlying cause of many if not most of the devastating health and social problems we suffer from, including substance abuse, suicide, obesity, domestic violence, school drop-out rates, cancer, heart disease and diabetes, among others, many of which categories Native communities have the highest rates in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of the members of our communities have suffered high numbers of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). While these are ultimately the result of the breakdown of our family structure caused by the destructive effects of colonization, it will require a combined attack on both ACEs and historical trauma to enable our communities to heal, involving both preventing trauma in future generations and mediating the effects of the trauma being suffered by the present generation through resiliency programs; and

WHEREAS: Because the trauma we suffered was community-wide, it will require comprehensive, integrated, community-wide approaches to successfully achieve healing; and

WHEREAS: Fortunately there is a growing body of knowledge on approaches for helping Native communities to heal and to prevent trauma in future generations, consisting of a combination of western and traditional healing practices; and

WHEREAS: In addition, several Native communities have already launched village-wide trauma-informed initiatives; and

WHEREAS: Planning and implementing community-wide trauma-informed healing and prevention programs require resources to pay for the personnel and expertise, resources that most Native communities lack; and

WHEREAS: Given the source of the problem, it is both necessary and appropriate for the Federal government to provide the Native communities the resources they need to implement the comprehensive integrated trauma-informed approaches that are required to overcome the trauma and the devastating effects that trauma is having on our communities, as well as to prevent it in future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the Congress to enact and fully fund legislation that will provide all Native communities the resources they need to create comprehensive, integrated trauma-informed initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED calls upon the Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services to train all of its employees so they are trauma-informed and to the greatest extent permitted, direct existing resources to assist Native communities implement comprehensive, integrated trauma-informed communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress to provide Native communities with greater flexibility over the use of existing Federal funds received by them so those funds can contribute effectively to the trauma-informed initiatives those communities develop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress to legislatively establish a goal of reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences suffered by the next generation in Native communities and reducing the effects of trauma on the present generation by 50% over the next ten years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives declares its commitment to join with other Alaska Native entities in a coalition to advocate for the goals set out above and to work to bring trauma-informed practices to Alaska Native communities.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION, SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE, CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIANS OF ALASKA, AND SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-22

- TITLE:** REQUEST FOR THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THE 101 COLD CASE HOMICIDE VICTIMS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of Alaska Native organizations includes advocating for the safety and well-being of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The third leading cause of death for Alaska Natives age 15 to 24 is homicide with Alaska Natives enduring higher homicide rates than other Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** The fundamental duty of Alaska State Troopers is to “serve all the people; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality, and justice”; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska State Troopers posted on their Cold Case Investigation Unit (CCIU) web page that there were “101 unresolved homicide cases in Alaska that were referred to the CCIU to investigate...for killings that happened between 1961 and 2001”; and
- WHEREAS:** Police cannot solve homicides - particularly cold case homicides - by themselves, and when the public is encouraged to help them, violent crimes are solved such as the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives (162 fugitives captured/located as a result of citizen cooperation) and America’s Most Wanted (helped catch 1,203 fugitives over the past quarter of a century); and
- WHEREAS:** Many states such as Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, and Connecticut have proactive cold case web pages which post the names, dates, locations, photographs, cards, synopses, and rewards to encourage the public to help solve cold cases with the names and contact information of the cold case detectives as well as several ways to report information; and
- WHEREAS:** When Alaskans saw that the Alaska State Troopers are not sharing even the most basic information about the 101 cold case victims such as the victims’ names, several (about 35) filed Public Information Requests under the Alaska Public

Records Act, AS 40.25.100–40.25.295 - all of which have been systematically denied by the Alaska State Troopers without sufficient (or any) explanation other than they are “currently working on updating the list” even though they have had the list of names for at least 18 years (since 2001); and

WHEREAS: Although the Alaska State Troopers refuse to provide any identifying information about any of the 101 cold case homicide victims, due to high homicide rates of Alaska Natives and due to at least one of the victims being an Alaska Native woman (Sophie Sergie, age 20, of Pitkas Point, killed on April 26, 1993 and a defendant charged on February 15, 2019 with murder in the first degree and sexual assault in the first degree), it is reasonable to postulate that more of the cold case victims are Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaskans have the right to know the names of the 101 cold case victims between 1961 and 2001 to see whose names are on the list so that advocacy may begin for the resolutions of these cases and so that efforts can begin to identify cold case homicide victims who names are not on the list; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention respectfully requests Governor Michael J. Dunleavy to direct the State of Alaska’s Department of Public Safety’s State Troopers to disclose the names of the 101 cold case homicide victims; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives respectfully requests Governor Michael J. Dunleavy to direct the State of Alaska’s Department of Public Safety’s State Troopers develop their web page so that it is similar to other states (for example, Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, or Connecticut) to encourage the public to step forward to provide information to assist in solving cold case homicides.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-23

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING S. 1703 & H.R. 3077 THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) OF 2019
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** there is a lack of safe, sanitary and affordable housing across the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA of 2019 improves the Housing Tax Credit program’s ability to serve hard-to-reach communities including rural, Native American, high-poverty, and high-cost communities, as well as extremely low-income individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA of 2019 can spur development of affordable housing in Alaska because it increases housing tax credit allocations by 50%, enacts a minimum 4% rate to parallel the minimum 9% rate already enacted, which enables the tax credits to better serve hard to reach communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA encourages development in Native American communities by designating them as “Difficult To Develop Areas,” making housing developments automatically eligible for a 30% basis boost to increase the investment of Housing Credits; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA provides a basic boost for developments in Native American and rural areas and there is a Native American selection criteria.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention, support S. 1703 & H.R. 3307, the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) of 2019.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-24

- TITLE:** URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TO RESTORE FUNDING TO THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Weatherization Program provides cost-effective energy improvements to homes of low-income families to reduce the operating cost to the resident, improve resident health and safety, and improve durability and longevity of housing stock; and
- WHEREAS:** The Weatherization Program has been successful in improving the health and safety of Alaskans, reducing the use of fossil fuels, reducing energy bills, improving and preserving housing stock across the state, reducing housing stock that is unsafe from carbon dioxide, mold and other health risks, creating jobs, and boosting struggling local economies; and
- WHEREAS:** The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) has simulated that the Weatherization Program has: \$863.6 million in direct, indirect and induced economic impacts; created an estimated 5,460 annual jobs; and \$319.9 million in health and safety impacts; and
- WHEREAS:** The Weatherization Program is often leveraged by RHAs with other funding to increase the number of homes being weatherized; and
- WHEREAS:** In the fiscal year 2020 capital appropriations, the State Legislature funded the AHFC Weatherization program at \$5 million; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Dunleavy vetoed the Weatherization Program from the fiscal year 2020 capital budget; and
- WHEREAS:** With the severe housing shortage across the state, the weatherization program is vital in preserving our current housing stock across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The CCHRC was commissioned by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to complete a Housing Needs Assessment that was completed in 2018. The study estimates 14,600 homes across Alaska have a 1-star energy rating and these homes typically use more than four times the energy of a new home built to AHFC's Energy Efficiency Standards and are in need of weatherization services; and

WHEREAS: The Weatherization Program provides for a 30%-40% savings to homeowners and in total saves Alaskans millions of dollars annually- year after year; providing a boost to local economies across the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of Alaska to restore funding to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Weatherization Program.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-25

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITH AN APPROPRIATION AMOUNT OF \$23 MILLION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** After being funded at \$23.1 million in 2005, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing Improvement Program (BIA HIP) was eliminated from the FY 2008 budget in order to fund other high priorities. The funding has since been restored, but at a lower level; and
- WHEREAS:** In FY 2018, the BIA HIP program was funded at approximately \$8 million. Alaska's demonstrated need in 2016 based on eligible applicants, exceeded \$202 million and Alaska received approximately \$1.5 million; and
- WHEREAS:** The BIA HIP serves the lowest income population and is utilized to improve the deteriorating housing stock. Categories A, B & C provides grants to repair an existing home or to purchase/construct a new home for individuals who usually cannot qualify for needed financing due to extremely low-income levels; and
- WHEREAS:** Under BIA HIP Category D, homebuyers are eligible to receive down payment assistance when they qualify for a home mortgage. This funding has been leveraged with other funding sources to make homeownership a reality for tribal members; and
- WHEREAS:** A unique benefit of being eligible for the BIA HIP program is the Indian Health Service designates BIA HIP recipients as a funding priority for water and sewer infrastructure to new and like-new housing. Being a priority for ANTHC water

and sewer projects increase the chances that homeownership can become a reality for tribal members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing Improvement Program (BIA HIP) with an appropriation amount of \$23 million.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-26

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS TO \$800 MILLION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (IHBG) WITH SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR INCREASES OF \$50 MILLION PER YEAR UNTIL INFLATIONARY REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) which is the primary source of funding for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure for Alaska Native and American Indian (AIAN) families; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA allocates over \$90 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities and is the primary vehicle for meeting critical housing needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) are sophisticated in leveraging funds to develop projects with multi-layered funding sources and NAHASDA is the foundation for building complex funding packages; and
- WHEREAS:** The core housing needs in Indian Country simply cannot be met adequately without support for additional funding secured for the IHBG; and
- WHEREAS:** Annual funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) authorized pursuant to NAHASDA has remained flat at around \$650 million, while housing needs and shortages continue to rapidly grow; and
- WHEREAS:** Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator inflation the IHBG has declined by 47%. The purchasing power of \$655 million (2019 appropriated amount) is equal to \$428 Million in 1999 dollars or, looking the other way- in 2019 dollars, the IHBG in 1999 would exceed \$1 billion (\$1.003 B); and

WHEREAS: Safe, affordable, quality housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning of success for other Tribal programs; and

WHEREAS: Approximately half of all available IHBG funding is committed to providing operating assistance to housing units built prior to NAHASDA, units that are today more than twenty years old. Only after that funding is allocated can the remaining IHBG funding be allocated to Tribes to address unmet housing needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to authorize funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) at no less than \$800 million, with subsequent fiscal year increases of \$50 million per year until inflationary reductions have been recovered.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-27

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program specifically for the benefit of Alaska Native and American Indian communities to promote the wellbeing of the Native people through funding affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA empowers Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), also known as Regional Housing Authorities, with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA authorized the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), which funds housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development in American Indian and Alaska Native communities throughout the country; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA allocates approximately \$98 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities and is the primary vehicle for meeting critical housing needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non-existent; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the many successes with NAHASDA housing programs, American Indian and Alaska Native housing conditions remain inferior relative to almost every relative national metric, and the demand for affordable housing remains unmet in nearly every Alaskan community; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA's current authorization expired on September 30, 2013, and it is concerning that NAHASDA may be viewed as a lesser funding priority because it

remains an unauthorized program and may provide challenges for tribes that are leveraging additional funding because of the uncertainty of the program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to act swiftly to successfully reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-28

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE TRIBAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (TRIBAL HUD-VASH) UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND FOR CONGRESS TO PASS SENATE BILL S.257, THE TRIBAL HUD-VASH ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** In January 2016, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Veterans Affairs (VA) funded the Tribal HUD-VASH demonstration program and three Regional Housing Authorities in Alaska were selected to participate in the program; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal HUD-VASH Program is intended to provide rental assistance, case management, and clinical support services for Native American veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal HUD VASH demonstration has been successful for a number of Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, however, there have also been many challenges encountered in implementing the demonstration program in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** HUD Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) has issued a Dear Tribal Leader Letter for consideration of expanding the program asking if selected tribes should be located near a VA medical center; and
- WHEREAS:** Most of Alaska's Tribes are not located near a VA medical center, therefore HUD should not consider this as a qualifying factor for Tribes to be eligible for the program; and
- WHEREAS:** HUD should also work with the Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Services providers to be approved counselors and to implement the use of telemedicine for the case management in our remote communities; and

WHEREAS: HUD ONAP should consider how the Tribes who are already participating in the demonstration program can benefit from increased opportunities for the unmet needs of their Native Veterans; and

WHEREAS: HUD should consider the use of Tribal HUD VASH funding to be used to increase new units for to house veterans that are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS: The United States Senate has passed S.257 to permanently establish and expand the Tribal HUD-VASH Program to more Tribes across the nation; and

WHEREAS: S.257 will address many of the challenges of the Tribal HUD VASH demonstration program such as providing waivers or specific alternatives to requirements necessary for effective delivery of the Tribal HUD VASH Program and will provide HUD and the VA the flexibility to make necessary modifications to the program after tribal consultation; and

WHEREAS: If ONAP expands the Tribal HUD VASH Program, it will provide critical case management and housing services to Native Veterans that are homeless or near homelessness; and

WHEREAS: If Congress passes the Tribal HUD VASH Act, it will provide stability to the Native Veteran families already receiving assistance under the demonstration program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention support the expansion of the Tribal Housing and Urban Development Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program under the Office of Native American Programs.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-29

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING \$100 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA), NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (NAHBG) COMPETITIVE FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 and subsequently for 2019 appropriated \$100 million for competitive grants to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG); and
- WHEREAS:** The Act directed the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) “shall consider the need and administrative capacity, and shall give priority to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation” in making awards; and
- WHEREAS:** HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the NAHBG Competitive program in May of 2019 which included two years of funding totaling nearly \$200 million; and
- WHEREAS:** The NAHBG Competitive funding is the first increase to NAHASDA since its inception; and
- WHEREAS:** The NOFA incentivized new construction and immediately docks points for rehabilitation and infrastructure projects; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately half of all available NAHASDA’s-Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funding is committed to providing operating assistance to housing units built prior to NAHASDA, units that are today more than twenty years old. Only after that funding is allocated can the remaining IHBG funding be allocated to Tribes to address unmet housing needs and operating subsidies to current stock built under NAHASDA; and
- WHEREAS:** Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator the Indian Housing Block Grant under NAHASDA has declined by 47%. The purchasing power of \$655

million (2019 appropriated amount) is equal to \$428 Million in 1999 dollars or, looking the other way- in 2019 dollars, the IHBG in 1999 would exceed \$1 billion (\$1.003 B); and

WHEREAS: Safe, affordable, quality housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning of success for other Tribal programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to continue annually appropriating \$100 million for the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) Competitive funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that applications be scored at the Regional Office and not at the Washington, D.C. Headquarters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each tribal entity has the authority to determine who qualifies for the houses once they are built.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-30

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS PROGRAMS AND FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 United States has a legal and moral obligation to provide for the health of Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) as established under the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, Supreme Court precedent, executive orders, and federal policies; and
- WHEREAS:** although the United States holds these solemn trust and treaty obligations, AN/AI populations continue to suffer from disproportionate incidence rates of diabetes and diabetes-related conditions that detrimentally impact the long-term health, welfare and vitality of AN/AI individuals, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33, to address the disparate impact of diabetes among AN/AI populations; and
- WHEREAS:** to carry out its mission, AFN supports the advocacy of the Alaska Native Health Board on issues affecting AN/AI health and wellbeing, diabetes and related chronic conditions having particular impact and costs to the Alaska Tribal Health System, and

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribal Health System works to ensure incorporation of culture, traditions, and values in SDPI and other diabetes-related program development, research, and community-based activities according to its mission; and

WHEREAS: SDPI is set to expire on September 30, 2019, the reauthorization of the program presents an opportunity to incorporate tribal recommendations; and

WHEREAS: the reauthorization of the SDPI presents an opportunity to further strengthen the pillars of the SDPI program that have contributed to improved clinical outcomes in diabetes prevention and treatment among AN/AI populations; and

WHEREAS: AFN recommends that reauthorization legislation be amended to allow SDPI funds to be included in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contracts and compacts (Public Law 93-638) in order to alleviate the administrative burden associated with applying for grants, reporting, and most important to allow SDPI grantees to receive contract support cost funds in order to assist in paying the administrative costs of managing SDPI programs, which is consistent with Congress' intent under the ISDEAA to maximize tribal resources available for the delivery of healthcare programs; and

WHEREAS: currently SDPI grantees have duplicate reporting requirements associated with grants—which are already fulfilled through ISDEAA contracts and compact—and must also program at least 25% or more of their SDPI funding to cover administrative associated with managing SDPI funds. This takes valuable resources out of patient care which could be covered by the indefinite discretionary appropriation process that currently funds contract support costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN supports a legislative amendment to allow funding provided under the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to be included in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN propose an amendment of Section 505(b) of the ISDEAA (25 U.S.C. § 5385(b)) that would add the following new subparagraph (3) to authorize the inclusion of SDPI programs and funds in ISDEAA agreements:

(3) At the option of an Indian Tribe grants for special diabetes programs for Indians awarded to Indian tribes under Section 330C(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(b)(2)) shall, after award, be added to the Title I or

Title V funding agreements of any Indian tribe under this Act, and shall be administered and implemented in accordance with the provisions of this Act rather than the Secretary's grant regulations (including the regulations governing statutorily mandated grants codified at 42 C.F.R. Part 137, Subpart F).



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

EDUCATION



Alaska Federation of Natives
2019 Annual AFN Convention
Resolution 19-31

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was signed into law in 1975; and
- WHEREAS:** when IDEA first passed Congress promised to provide states with 40% of the funding needed for educating children with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** the federal government's contribution has not exceeded its current contribution of 16%, leaving states and local school districts making up the additional costs needed to provide the services needed by our students with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the National Center for Education Statistics about 13% of all public school students receive services under IDEA; and
- WHEREAS:** also according to the National Center for Education Statistics, American Indian/Alaska Native students represent the largest percentage of students ages 3-21 served under IDEA, with 17% of AI/AN students being served under IDEA compared to the 13% nationwide average, and
- WHEREAS:** in 2017 Alaska served 19,148 students ages 3-21 under IDEA; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the U.S. Department of Education, the average federal investment for each student educated through IDEA is approximately \$1,770 for fiscal year 2019; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the U.S. Department of Education, this will decline to \$1,758 in fiscal year 2020 if the program is level-funded; and
- WHEREAS:** education funding in Alaska is under threat from the current administration; and

WHEREAS: further cuts to education funding in Alaska will make providing services under IDEA even more difficult; and

WHEREAS: the Association of Alaska School Boards has a resolution supporting increased funding to fully fund the federal mandate; and

WHEREAS: the National School Boards Association also supports modernizing and fully funding IDEA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge Congress to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: QAGAN TAYAGUNGIN TRIBE

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-32

TITLE: PROVIDE ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN STATE

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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: One of AFN's major goals is to promote and advocate for programs and systems which instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: AFN strives to deliberately act to eliminate such gaps, policies, practices and structures that perpetuate inequities based on race and support the elimination of the factors that predict disparity; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native students are being affected by accreditation issues and state funding cuts to the University of Alaska higher education system; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native higher education programs and faculty are some of the first to be cut when the system faces a shortfall; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities and organizations rely on an in-state system of higher education to prepare our workforce, train our leaders, and provide high quality educational opportunities to our people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Governor and State Legislature to fund the state's system of higher education at a level that ensures high quality programs for Alaska Native students that allows for Alaska Native student retention and graduation within the University of Alaska System; provides adequate support for all Alaska Native students; and provides an annual report on the enrollment, persistence and success of Alaska Native students enrolled in the University of Alaska system.

NOW BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the UA Board of Regents to provide a thoughtful response to budget reductions with a focus on preserving adequate support for all Alaska Native students and programming; and provides publish an annual report on the enrollment,

persistence and success of Alaska Native students enrolled in the University of Alaska system, and establish measurable goals to improve these outcomes.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL
ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-33

- TITLE:** INVEST IN HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR RURAL, ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Educational inequities facing rural students and families emerge as a result of policy proposals that are contrary to the constitutional mandate for the provision of public education open to all students in Alaska, and Section 6303 of Every Student Succeeds Act states its purpose plainly as “to ensure the maximum participation by Alaska Natives educators and leaders in the planning, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs designed to serve Alaska Native student; and
- WHEREAS:** Detrimental policy and budget proposals include but are not limited to: school consolidation (e.g., increasing the required Minimum Average Daily Membership; forced regionalization of schools; and a push to return to a system of boarding schools for rural students), restricting or reducing funding for public education in rural Alaska, cost containment issues making it challenging for rural schools to provide comparable program for students in rural Alaska when their infrastructure and costs differ significantly from that of urban schools (e.g., energy, internet, transportation), and not removing unfunded/underfunded mandates in the provision of rural education; and
- WHEREAS:** These inequities impact a protected class of citizens, which raises constitutional and civil rights concerns – and they contribute to a lower quality of life for our precious people in that research shows time and again that those who do not graduate high school have a shorter life expectancy, lower lifetime income, and lower overall health; and
- WHEREAS:** Educational inequity directly impacts the desire of families to stay in our villages, which means that the strength of our rural school system is tied to the sustainability of our rural communities – when a school is threatened with

closure, there is usually an outmigration of families, which further undermines the viability of our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention call on the Alaska State Board of Education and the Department of Education to adhere to Federal ESSA Law requires “maximum participation by Alaska Native(s)” in educational efforts that involve Alaska Native children; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN opposes any action by policy makers or others to make worse the educational inequities facing rural Alaska Native students and families, including but not limited to increasing the minimum average daily membership, not funding or underfunding rural schools, school consolidation, and cost containment practices that impact rural Alaska disproportionately compared to other areas.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-34

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE STATE OF ALASKA’S EDUCATION SYSTEM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Education of our children and youth is essential to building a thriving and educated workforce in the State of Alaska, and especially our Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Constitution requires the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools open to all children of the State; and
- WHEREAS:** The majority of public schools in Rural Alaska are Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) schools; and
- WHEREAS:** Twelve percent of all pre-kindergarten, primary, and secondary students in Alaska attend REAA schools; and
- WHEREAS:** REAA schools are funded by the State, including any funds passed through by the federal government, and are disproportionately negatively impacted by State budget cuts; and
- WHEREAS:** The success of Alaska’s education system, including REAA schools, is dependent on the State of Alaska allocating sufficient funding for the operation of all schools; and
- WHEREAS:** State budget cuts to the education system cause uncertainty for not only the school administration, but teachers, teachers’ aides, students, parents, communities, and these uncertainties jeopardize the health and well being of our children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges the State of Alaska to fully fund early education, primary, and secondary education each year.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-36

TITLE: CALLING FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MANAGE AND PROTECT 17B EASEMENTS THAT ARE ADJACENT TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE CORPORATIONS AND REGIONAL CORPORATION LANDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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: Trespassers and poachers access private lands via 17(b) easements; and

WHEREAS: Alaska State Troopers or local law enforcement have little effect to prosecute criminal offenses due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are suffering the consequences of lack of enforcement; and

WHEREAS: Our subsistence way of living is being affected by trespassers who poach our animals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN requests the United States of America to actively manage 17(b) easements for the entire State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management identify and mark all 17(b) easements within the next 5 years for the entire State of Alaska, and that they be deemed to have relinquished those easements not otherwise identified as 17(b) easements within the 5 year period.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKHIOK-KAGUYAK, INC. AND KONIAG/KANA
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-37

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR REINSTITUTING THE OCEAN RANGER PROGRAM TO PROTECT ALASKAN WATERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 is the first and only state to require U.S. Coast Guard licensed marine engineers on board vessels to act as independent observers monitoring State environmental and marine discharge requirements; and

WHEREAS: The Ocean Rangers Program was created by a ballot initiative and is paid for by cruise ship passenger head tax; and

WHEREAS: The Governor's veto effectively blocks DEC from receiving the \$3.4 million in cruise passenger head tax next season; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 189 alleged environmental violations were logged last year; and

WHEREAS: Left unmonitored, the cruise ships could dump contaminants into Southeast Alaska waters which will have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS: For thousands of years, Alaska Native people have depended on subsistence foods for survival.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention support the continued monitoring of the cruise ship industry for illegal disposal of wastewater that is harmful to our oceans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Governor to reinstate the Ocean Ranger Program, to protect our waters and our way of life.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA AND
KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-38

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATING THE OFFICE OF ENERGY COST SHARE WAIVER
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 US Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy (OIE) offers Deployment Grants for tribal energy infrastructure projects to help Native American and Alaska Native communities harness vast energy resources in order to reduce or stabilize energy costs, as well as increase their energy security and resilience; and
- WHEREAS:** the cost share requirements for Deployment Grants are a barrier to entry—and hence a barrier to success—for most Alaska Native tribes, because our tribes are unable to scrape together the dollar for dollar match for non-federal funds; and
- WHEREAS:** OIE has the statutory authority to allow tribes to request a cost share waiver down to 10% (or 10-1 match) if financial need can be shown, and when the Statute is followed, Alaska tribes are successful; and
- WHEREAS:** OIE removed its ability to grant such waivers in its 2017 and 2018 requests for proposals citing the challenge with determining “financial need” of each applicant, although numerous other federal funding opportunities have an established methodology to define a community that qualified for reduced cost share requirements; and
- WHEREAS:** this created an unfair balance between Alaska tribes, many of whom are land and cash constrained, and lower 48 tribes, many of which find the cost share easier to shoulder because of their revenue due to land ownership; and
- WHEREAS:** mitigating the challenge of a 50% non-federal match would require OIE to reinstate its internal policy to reduce the cost share waiver down to 10% for tribes

who can prove financial need. This action could be taken internally within the Office of Indian Energy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention encourage AFN to actively engage the Office of Indian Energy to reinstate the cost share waiver for Alaskan tribes and seek other opportunities for Alaska tribes eligibility for Deployment Grants.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-40

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES TO REEVALUATE THEIR WILDFIRE STRATEGIES AND RESPOND MORE RAPIDLY TO WILDFIRES NEAR VILLAGES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 summer of 2019 was another severe fire season in Alaska, exacerbated in much of the state by an unprecedented drought in August; and

WHEREAS: For example, although there was no loss of life or catastrophic property losses, the Bristol Bay region in the 2019 season had fires nearby several villages and many suffered from smoke, and

WHEREAS: It was the experience of impacted villages that they were largely left to their own resources and assistance from neighboring villages and that wildfire suppression aid from the responsible fire-fighting agencies wasn't deployed until the villages were at imminent risk; and

WHEREAS: The increasing number and scale of wildfire is alarming, particularly given numerous other indicators of a warming climate that suggests fires are only going to get worse; and

WHEREAS: AFN understands that fire suppression budgets are limited, that wildfire is natural and often beneficial to the environment, but is concerned that current strategies for wildfire management may not be adequate for a changing climate and may not adequately consider the health effects of the smoke from widespread fires.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges the Alaska Division of Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management-Alaska Fire Service,

and other responsible agencies to respond more rapidly to fires near villages; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fire suppression agencies review and update their strategies
to ensure the impacts of climate change are accounted for and that the health
impacts of widespread fires are considered.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

ECONOMIC



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-41

TITLE: PROMOTING ALASKA AND ALASKA NATIVE-OWNED BUSINESSES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 theme of AFN's 2019 Convention is "Good Government, Alaskan Driven;" and

WHEREAS: Many Alaskan businesses are owned by Alaska Native organizations and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan businesses provide critical revenue for Alaska's economy and employment opportunities for Alaskan residents throughout the state; and

WHEREAS: The federal government has numerous installations and procurement opportunities within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The federal procurement process is extremely complex and creates barriers to local businesses; and

WHEREAS: Promoting Alaskan and Alaska Native-owned businesses, through government contracting, will enhance economic opportunities for the entire Alaska Native community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN does hereby support efforts to promote Alaska and Alaska Native-owned businesses in federal government contracting opportunities throughout the State of Alaska.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

ANSCA/TRIBAL



Alaska Federation of Natives
2019 Annual AFN Convention
Resolution 19-42

- TITLE:** LANDS IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES BEING HELD IN TRUST BY THE STATE OF ALASKA UNDER SEC. 14(C)(3) OF ANCSA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Section 14(c)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) required every Native Village Corporation formed under the Act to turn a portion of the lands it received in the Village under the Act over to the State of Alaska to be held in trust for the eventual creation of a municipal government in the area; and
- WHEREAS:** many Villages have already turned land over to be held in trust and managed by the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** in the case of many rural Native Villages the land is now being managed in apparent perpetuity by the State Municipal Land Trust (MLT), an office that is underfunded and overtasked; and
- WHEREAS:** There are a number of villages in Alaska where conveyances to the State MLT have not yet taken place, or have not been finalized with a 14(c)(3) signed agreement; and
- WHEREAS:** it has been decades since the passage of ANCSA, and many years after villages turned over land, and there have been no municipalities formed or planned, and no end in sight; and
- WHEREAS:** the State does not have the resources to adequately manage these lands indefinitely, nor did the drafters of ANCSA intend that result; and
- WHEREAS:** the State laws and regulations governing the MLT give the Trust the authority to convey or dispose of 14(c)(3) lands it is managing in Villages when the Tribal authority (referred to in the regulations as the Appropriate Village Entity) concurs with the action; and

WHEREAS: the local community, acting through its Tribal Council and its Native Village Corporation is best situated to make appropriate decisions on Village land management in the best interests of the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention requests that in cases where there has been demonstrated support by the Village Tribal and Corporate leadership, the MLT should use its authority under AS 44.33.755 and 3 AAS 190.410 – 190.490 to work with the Tribal Council and the Alaska Native Corporation to ensure a smooth and effective return of the 14(c)(3) lands to the appropriate Native entity to manage in what they determine to be their own community's best interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any necessary changes be made to federal law to facilitate the transfer of MLT-held Village lands back to the appropriate Native entity; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in cases where there has been demonstrated support by the Village Tribal and Alaska Native Corporate leadership, and the Alaska Native Corporation has not completed the 14(c) process, the Alaska Native Corporation should be allowed to transfer part or all of its 14(c)(3) required acreage directly to the appropriate Native entity



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: CHENEGA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-43

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LANDLESS SOUTHEAST NATIVE COMMUNITIES SEEKING LEGISLATION TO FORM ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) CORPORATIONS AND RECEIVE ANCSA BENEFITS, INCLUDING LAND SELECTION RIGHTS AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** In 1971 the United States Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands by authorizing the establishment of Alaska Native Corporations to receive and manage lands and funds awarded in settlement of the claims for Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of ANCSA was to settle the land claims of the Alaska Natives and to provide them with the means to pursue economic development for the benefit of Alaska’s Native people; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA was passed to provide for a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska, and was to be accomplished rapidly, with certainty, in conformity with real economic and social needs of Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of the Alaska Native Corporations have become successful and powerful economic, social and cultural engines within their communities, regions and throughout the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell (known as “Landless” communities in Southeast Alaska) were not listed as communities eligible to form Native village or urban corporations under ANCSA, despite the fact that these communities comprised greater than 20% of the Shareholders of Sealaska; and

WHEREAS: The reason for this exclusion is not explained in the statutory or report language of ANCSA and an appeal of the exclusion, to the Secretary of the Interior, was not authorized for Southeast Alaska communities in ANCSA; and

WHEREAS: A Congressional report commissioned in 1993 to examine the reason why the five communities were denied ANCSA eligibility indicates that the communities do not differ significantly from the Southeast communities that were allowed ANCSA eligibility; and

WHEREAS: The five Landless communities and shareholders have been denied the benefit of Native land ownership, and the opportunities that this land ownership could provide economically, socially and culturally; and

WHEREAS: These five Landless communities have sought full eligibility for ANCSA land and benefits for four decades, and will continue to fight to correct this historic inequity; and

WHEREAS: The Landless communities, through legislation introduced into the United States Senate and House of Representatives, are seeking an act of Congress to allow them to form ANCSA Native urban corporations and to receive ANCSA benefits, including land selection rights and appropriate compensation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN calls upon the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to recognize these five Landless communities as eligible to form Alaska Native corporations and to receive land selection rights and compensation under ANCSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will add its policy support and efforts to the struggle to enact legislation intended to authorize the formation of the Alaska Native corporations for these five Landless communities under ANCSA.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-44

- TITLE:** MAKING ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS WHOLE FOR RECONVEYANCES OF ANCSA LAND REQUIRED BY ANCSA SECTION 14(C)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (“ANCSA”) is universally recognized as a land settlement; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 14(c)(1) and (2) of ANCSA requires Alaska Native Corporations to convey tracts of their ANCSA land to occupants and nonprofits who occupied the lands as of December 18, 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA requires Alaska Native Corporations to convey tracts of their ANCSA land to Municipal Corporations (or to the State in trust for any future Municipal Corporations) for community expansion and other community needs; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA does not include any provision for Alaska Native Corporations to select additional lands to make them whole for their ANCSA land that they are required to convey pursuant to Section 14(c) of ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** The land that Alaska Native Corporations are required to convey under Section 14(c) of ANCSA is often some of its most useful and valuable land because of its proximity to the village, subsistence areas, businesses, and residences; and
- WHEREAS:** Because of the significant variations in required land transfers under 14(c), the net effect of 14(c) has been to significantly undercut the land entitlement for many Alaska Native Corporations; and
- WHEREAS:** Making Alaska Native Corporations whole for 14(c) conveyances will enable Alaska Native Corporations to more freely utilize available lands for community development and promotion of village-wide initiatives; and

WHEREAS: Because many Alaska Native Corporations have not been able to complete 14(c), it has unfairly disadvantaged those that have diligently completed 14(c) while serving as a disincentive to those who have not.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN does hereby support efforts to amend ANCSA and/or seek regulatory changes to make Alaska Native Corporations whole for their ANCSA lands that they are required to convey through Section 14(c) of ANCSA.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-45

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE DELEGATION TO AMEND ANCSA TO ADDRESS TREATMENT OF INCOME FROM ANCSA CORPORATIONS AND SETTLEMENT TRUSTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) settled the land claims of the Alaska Native people and created for-profit Alaska Native corporations owned by Alaska Native shareholders; and
- WHEREAS:** Following passage of ANCSA, dividends to shareholders from ANCSA corporations were counted as income for purposes of determining eligibility for other federal needs-based benefits programs, adversely impacting shareholders' eligibility for such programs; and
- WHEREAS:** As part of the 1988 ANCSA technical amendments Congress addressed this issue by providing that \$2,000 of income from ANCSA dividends would be excluded from the calculation of income for federal benefit eligibility; and
- WHEREAS:** The amount of the dividend exclusion has not been increased since; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska Native corporations are now issuing distributions through an ANCSA Settlement Trust rather than a dividend from the Alaska Native corporation; and
- WHEREAS:** The eligibility of ANCSA shareholders, particularly elders, to qualify for federal programs continues to be adversely affected by ANCSA dividends and distributions, and some shareholders are compelled to waive or return this income or jeopardize their entitlement to federal programs; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN supports initiatives to have the delegation review and update the \$2,000 income exclusion to either increase and inflation adjust the dollar amount, or to provide an exclusion for Alaska Native corporation dividends and ANCSA Settlement Trust distributions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge our congressional delegation to amend ANCSA's \$2,000 income exclusion to increase and inflation adjust the dollar amount or to provide an exclusion for Alaska Native corporation dividends and ANCSA Settlement Trust distributions in the calculation of income for federal benefit program eligibility.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

OTHER



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-46

TITLE: EXPANDING ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 and Native Americans continue to endure under-representation in policies impacting Indian country including Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives benefit when we have adequate and accurate representation on issues impacting our communities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's legislature includes approximately less than five Alaska Native legislators in the 60-member body; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have endured decades of misrepresentation or under-representation resulting in less consideration on issues and policies impacting Alaska Native communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention recommend AFN and its membership to encourage Alaska Native candidates for high profile legislative offices by actively hosting candidate forums and networking events statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED such actions to support candidates will begin in the 2020 elections.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AZACHOROK INCORPORATED
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-47

- TITLE:** URGING FULL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Many Alaska communities are accessible only by water or air; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) provides essential services to more than 35 coastal communities in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Essential services include transportation for: medical services; job opportunities; educational opportunities such as school trips and higher education; transport of vehicles; military; regional container shipments for food; and shopping for groceries and other basic needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska communities also benefit from coastal residents spending money and purchasing items when traveling to these and other hub communities, as well as from tourism to and from coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Legislature has failed to provide full funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System to continue operations through the end of fiscal year 2019 and beyond; and
- WHEREAS:** AMHS passengers are now facing a change in price based on the number of passengers, which passes on costs to rural residents; and
- WHEREAS:** AMHS has already diminished the winter ferry schedule for some rural routes; and
- WHEREAS:** The effort to make the AMHS an independent or quasi-independent organization will still require state subsidies and as a support for those subsidies gets less and less, rural community routes will likely be cut first; and
- WHEREAS:** A shutdown of the Alaska Marine Highway System would have devastating and unavoidable impacts on those communities it serves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN urge the Alaska State Legislature to provide full funding to enable the Alaska Marine Highway System to continue operations and in the event that full funding is not provided due to the State budget process being stalled, a baseline allocation would be made to ensure the system could operate until full funding is provided; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN takes all necessary steps to implement this resolution immediately.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL
ROUNDTABLE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-48

- TITLE:** ESTABLISHING NATIONAL FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND A FUNDING PRIORITY FOR ALL RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 is a vast state with millions of acres of wilderness and has few transportation options with ground transportation non-existent to most rural Alaskan communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The majority of Alaska’s rural, off-road system communities are either ocean or riverine based, relying on marine transportation to freight heavy cargo such as fuel, building materials for housing and public building, groceries, vehicles, and dry goods; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s marine coastal communities also rely on marine facilities to support valuable resource based industries such as fishing, tourism, and logging, and that such facilities are necessary to sustainable economic development and growth as well as to remove accumulations of solid waste from rural communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s military families and forces rely on essential marine to support their relocation, medical, and other needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government has recognized the importance of Essential Air Service in that it provides a vital link that connects, sustains, and maintains our communities, however it has not formally recognized nor established a program of Essential Marine Transportation that formally recognizes the critically important nature of marine transportation in Alaska, which means coastal communities must rely on the good will of the State to support essential marine services; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of our rural coastal communities do not receive regularly scheduled freight or ferry services resulting in no regular marine shipping services for Alaska’s rural, marine-based communities. This in turn causes an exorbitantly high cost of

living relating to the cost of shipping fuel, vehicles, groceries, and staples, a very high cost of construction of new housing and public buildings due to mobilization and shipping costs, and the high cost of maintaining large accumulations of solid waste with no ability to remove them, including materials that can be recyclable; and

WHEREAS: It is not cost effective for businesses to invest in coastal communities to bring goods at this time; and

WHEREAS: There has been recent investment by tribal, local, state, and federal governments in expanding infrastructure such as docks and harbors to accommodate essential marine in coastal communities; and

WHEREAS: Coastal communities are presently dealing with additional cuts to ferry services via the Alaska Marine Highway System, which served in some ways as essential marine.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN strongly recommends the creation of an Essential Marine Transportation Program by the federal government to provide marine transportation subsidies, including the shipment of fuel to support regular, vital, shipping services to Alaska's coastal and riverine communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN strongly urges the State of Alaska to provide consistent ferry services to all rural ports that can support the safe docking of ferries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in all transportation planning by the State of Alaska adequate consideration be given to marine projects such as docks and harbors for Alaska's rural communities that are considered essential to supporting all Essential Marine Transportation and resource-based industries.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-49

TITLE: AFN ENCOURAGES MATTEL TO INCLUDE ELIZABETH PERATROVICH IN INSPIRING WOMEN SERIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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: Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich led the charge in passing the very first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Her efforts to petition Governor Ernest Gruening to introduce the Anti-Discrimination Act and her testimony are considered to have been decisive factors in the passage of the law; and

WHEREAS: Elizabeth Peratrovich is an iconic civil rights leader in the state; and

WHEREAS: Cultural Socialization and Representation promotes self-confidence and cultural pride, Alaska Native children deserve to see someone who looks like them; and

WHEREAS: Mattel, the maker of Barbie® has their Inspiring Women series to pay tribute to “courageous women who paved the way for generations of girls to dream bigger than ever before”; and

WHEREAS: An Elizabeth Peratrovich doll is a chance for Mattel to make an Alaska Native hero visible and accessible.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN understands the significant impacts on self-esteem and cultural pride in representation for Native American and Alaska Native youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION, that AFN encourages Mattel to include Elizabeth Peratrovich, a civil rights icon, in their Inspiring Women series to inspire Native youth for generations to come to fight for equity and be proud of who you are.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-50

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 more than 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:** ALSC's lawyers in twelve offices and six medical-legal partnership sites embedded within tribal healthcare facilities around the state serve a population of over 98,854 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,965 Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** the Bristol Bay Native Association as well as several other regional Native organizations including the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association currently partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Dillingham, Bethel, Fairbanks, 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:** the State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (FY) 2020,

which was added to the operating budget by the legislature, completely eliminated by Governor Dunleavy's veto, re-added to the budget by the legislature through special session, and then approved by Governor Dunleavy in the amount of \$759,010 to be used for domestic violence and sexual assault civil legal services; and

WHEREAS: This amount 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 7,210 people living in over 191 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 that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2021 budget, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges 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.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-51

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION OF TRIBAL NATIONS’ TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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:** Tribal nations’ tangible cultural heritage—including cultural items protected under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, archaeological resources protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, objects of antiquity protected under the Antiquities Act, and other culturally significant items—is illegally removed and trafficked domestically and abroad at an alarming rate, and tribal nations are often forced to act quickly to secure its return when it appears in auction catalogues for sale; and
- WHEREAS:** Once tribal nations’ tangible cultural heritage is exported from the United States, it is extremely difficult to regain, in part because United States federal law lacks certain provisions needed to access other countries’ domestic laws and legal mechanisms and international diplomatic tools; and
- WHEREAS:** An explicit export prohibition and export certification system for tribal nations’ tangible cultural heritage that is currently protected under existing federal laws—including cultural items obtained in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, archaeological resources obtained in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and objects of antiquity obtained in violation of the Antiquities Act—would allow the United States and tribal nations to request its return from certain countries, such as France, that restrict import of cultural heritage illegally exported from a country that provides export certification;
- WHEREAS:** A confirmation of the President’s authority to enter into agreements under the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, a 1970 international treaty, in order to request from other countries return of tribal nations’ tangible cultural heritage that is currently protected under existing federal laws, paired with the

explicit export prohibition and export certification system together, would allow the United States to use the treaty as a diplomatic tool in retrieving such items; and

WHEREAS: Mechanisms through which the federal agencies, including the Departments of Interior, Justice, State, and Homeland Security, whose work affects domestic and international repatriation of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage could coordinate with each other, tribal nations, and individuals seeking to voluntarily return tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage would aid in protection and repatriation of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to develop legislation, in consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, to:

1. Prohibit the export of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage that is currently protected under existing federal laws, including cultural items obtained in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, archaeological resources obtained in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and objects of antiquity obtained in violation of the Antiquities Act; and
2. Create an export certification system that prevents the export of such items; and
3. Confirm the President's authority to enter into agreements under the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property in order to request from other countries return of such items; and
4. Create a federal framework to support voluntary return of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage, a federal working group to ensure coordination between federal agencies, and a tribal working group to advise federal agencies and committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to enact the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act or substantially similar legislation, which is designed to address these issues.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION, SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE,
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIANS OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-52

- TITLE:** RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN ALASKA, URGING EVERY ALASKAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS, ENGAGING WITH THE STATE COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 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:** United States Census Bureau data collections are fundamental to our country's democratic process because they are used to determine apportionment in the U.S. House of Representatives, redraw state legislative boundaries, and redraw the political subdivisions of local governments; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Census Bureau is required by the United States Constitution to conduct a count of the population every 10 years to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy; and
- WHEREAS:** every year, billions of dollars of federal and state funds are allocated to communities, and decisions on matters of national and local importance, including healthcare, community development, business location and operations, housing, education, transportation, social services, and employment, are made based on census data; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government allocates over \$800 billion annually based upon Census Bureau data, including more than \$3.2 billion within Alaska each year; and
- WHEREAS:** the distribution of federal funding for American Indian and Alaska Native schools, education programs, health programs, housing programs, water and

sewage projects, roads, and economic development is based on data collected by the Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS: Census Bureau data is used to enforce state and federal laws, including civil rights laws, and voting rights requirements; and

WHEREAS: Tribes, governments, businesses, and non-profits throughout Alaska use Census Bureau data for planning and development; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan communities, particularly those with a high proportion of Alaska Natives, are among the most difficult in the nation to count accurately due to challenges such as geographical location and language barriers; and

WHEREAS: The additional consequences of undercounting Alaska Native persons include: inequitable redistricting, decreased federal funding that exacerbates Alaska's fiscal situation, reductions in essential services like infrastructure repairs, decreased funding for education and programs that make up Alaska's social safety net, improper enforcement of laws that protect vulnerable populations, and less accurate data available to tribes and tribal organizations to effectively plan for the future; and

WHEREAS: a State Complete Count Commission was established in Alaska to improve stakeholder engagement and coordination and to encourage statewide participation in the 2020 Census.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN recognizes the critical importance of accurate U.S. Census Bureau data to all Alaskans, as well as the unique challenges of Census data collection in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges every Alaskan to participate in the 2020 Census; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the United States Congress to appropriate sufficient federal resources to maintain or improve the accuracy of Census Bureau data collections in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the State Complete Count Commission to engage with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Alaska Native Corporations

throughout Alaska to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census;
and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska; to the Chair of the State of Alaska Complete Count Commission; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the United States Census Bureau.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES AND ASSOCIATION OF
VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-53

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AND SATELLITE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE ARE FULLY FUNDED AND TO RESTORE ELIMINATED FUNDING TO CONTINUE OPERATIONAL SERVICE AND TO RESTORE FUNDING TO PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS OF CRITICAL SERVICES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) provides free, over-the-air television service to approximately 185 rural and isolated Alaska communities and remains a primary, affordable information source for many users; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS, a television service formerly known as RATNet, is owned and operated by the State of Alaska, and the state relies on it as part of its emergency broadcast system; and
- WHEREAS:** The emergency communications role played by the ARCS television service provides the State of Alaska's Emergency Alert System with a top level distribution platform to quickly and reliably relay emergency alerts to rural residents as well as radio and TV broadcast stations statewide; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has operated ARCS in partnerships with rural village community organizations and urban television broadcasters for over three decades; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS continues to provide a valuable service to rural Alaska, especially the most vulnerable and at-risk residents in remote areas, as a free-to-watch over the air television service; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS delivers vital weather and emergency information, as well as news, public affairs, entertainment and educational programming in some of Alaska's most remote and economically depressed regions; and

- WHEREAS: Through an FY14 Capital Appropriation, the State of Alaska is in the process of converting all ARCS's transmitters in the villages from analog to digital; the AFN Convention supported this project in Resolution 2012-34; and
- WHEREAS: The satellite infrastructure delivers ARCS TV, multiple public TV and radio services, Gavel Alaska, and emergency alerts to residents statewide; and
- WHEREAS: The Digital Conversion Project delivers improved and increased programming to ARCS viewers with no additional operating costs, implements new electronics to replace aging equipment, and maximizes the use of the ARCS satellite infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's initial investment in RATNet produced three decades of service to bush and rural Alaska that continues as ARCS today; and the new digital ARCS technology increases availability of free broadcasting content and services to many residents for the first time; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting in Alaska provides over the air non-commercial public service programming to un-served and underserved audiences throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting provides an unparalleled level of local public service programming including local news; weather and marine conditions; community information; emergency, health and safety information; music and public affairs programming; and live event coverage; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting serves bush and rural communities where commercial service does not exist. Service in the bush is provided by originating stations based in bush and rural communities and by urban stations with equipment in remote areas; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting's public safety mission is reflected in participation in the statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS), which for many is a primary source of local, statewide and national emergency declarations; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting's education mission is reflected in the high quality of its children's programming, educational outreach in the community, and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting's local service mission is characterized by local ownership, local control of programming, deep community engagement; strong partnerships with many community organizations; and

WHEREAS: The collaborative relationship between the State of Alaska, the public communications services it supports, and the residents in rural and urban Alaska communities who depend on those services every day, represents a unique and valuable partnership worthy of strong support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN urges Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska State Legislature to ensure the Alaska Rural Communications Service, and Satellite Services are fully funded and to restore eliminated funding for public broadcasting so that residents in bush and rural Alaska continue to receive these fundamental radio and television services.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-54

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (ASCA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) was created in statute in 1966 by the Alaska State Legislature to act as Alaska’s State Arts Agency; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of ASCA is to represent, support, and advance the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations, and agencies throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA supports Alaska Native artists through a variety of efforts including its Traditional Native Arts Program, Alaska Native Arts Senior Advisory Committee, Alaska Native Leadership Program, Alaska’s Living Cultural Treasures and Rural Artists Residencies Programs, and other initiatives; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA has supported and advocated for protection of Alaska Native artists and their artwork through management of the Silver Hand Alaska Native arts authentication program; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA has developed strong partnerships with Alaska Native profit and non-profit organizations and tribal entities through the delivery of professional development services. ASCA’s goal is for Alaska Native artists to thrive and prosper, bringing the maximum benefits from all these arts forms to those who practice, enjoy, and appreciate them;
- WHEREAS:** on a per capita basis, Alaska invests about one dollar annually (from all State fund sources) in ASCA, which returns over three dollars for each Alaskan; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA has helped create, and is key to sustaining, an arts sector that is a major economic driver in Alaska. As of 2012, 9700 Alaskans were employed in the arts and creative industries. Nonprofit arts organizations supported by ASCA generate over \$26 million in revenue. \$85 million in revenues are generated through art gallery and individual artist sales, and another \$17 million in revenues are generated through performing arts events. (Creative Vitality Index,

Western States Arts Federation). Modest funding from the State of Alaska, matched more than 3-to-1 by federal and private foundation support, not only improves quality of life for Alaskans, but sustains multiple vital parts of our economy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN urge the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ASCA in his proposed FY 20201 budget at the FY 2020 level at minimum, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding at the FY 2020 level at minimum in support of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD RECOMMENDATION: SEND TO THE FLOOR
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-55

TITLE: GOOD GOVERNMENT, ALASKAN DRIVEN

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 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: Since time immemorial Alaska Natives have owned and occupied Alaska and have governed themselves under their traditional forms of government, enabling them to thrive and flourish for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives sought to secure the right to vote in the territorial and federal governments; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have a history of working to secure their aboriginal, civil, and land rights and to ensure that government meets its responsibilities to its citizens; and

WHEREAS: When AFN formed more than 50 years ago, Native leaders included in the organization's Articles of Incorporation a call for good government; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives, who have three layers of citizenships under tribal, state and federal governments, understand the elements of "Good Government" and the responsibility of government to promote justice and equity and to support the social and economic welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS: With Alaska facing serious fiscal challenges that could negatively impact all Alaskan citizens and rural and urban communities alike, "Alaskan Driven," long term, and balanced solutions must be sought through meaningful engagement between all Alaskans and the legislature and administration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that the AFN membership and administration in attendance at the 2019 AFN Convention commits itself to strengthen the Native community's bonds of unity,

and reach out to all Alaskans to help build an Alaska in which current and future generations may thrive and prosper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN through its membership and administration will continue to engage with federal and state governments at all levels and in all branches to further the interests of all Alaska citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will continue to implement and update its public policy Advocacy Plan for Alaska and will join with other interest groups and citizens to ensure that the State of Alaska meets its obligations to all its citizens as set forth in Alaska's Constitutions are met.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD RECOMMENDATION: SEND TO THE FLOOR
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-56

- TITLE:** DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 and 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 people; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** We the indigenous youth and future leaders of Alaska are concerned for the survival of our future generations, ways of life, traditional lands, intact ecosystems, emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being due to Climate Change; and
- WHEREAS:** Our indigenous lands and waters are warming at twice the rate as the rest of the world. Many communities across the state face hardships directly correlated with Climate Change, such as the extreme warming temperatures which melt the permafrost, causing mass erosion, resulting in the relocation of entire communities along with devastating the natural habitats of our animal and plant relatives. These impacts have disrupted indigenous seasonal hunting and gathering traditions; and
- WHEREAS:** In recent years we have lost community members due to unpredictable and unsafe ice conditions, have seen the die off and disease of seals, salmon, migratory birds, shellfish, whales, polar bears, and recognize that these are also our relatives; and

WHEREAS: We, the Alaska Native youth, are asking our tribal leaders to consider, as is traditional, the future of their grandchildren and the generations to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives will reinstate a climate action leadership task force within the Alaska Federation of Natives to advance indigenous voices and advocate for strong climate policies that will ensure the survival of future generations and to declare a state of emergency on Climate Change.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND
YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-57

TITLE: PROTECT CLEAN WATER AND WATER DEPENDENT SPECIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 and 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 Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Water was always treated with the utmost respect, and traditional and customary foods requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of indigenous environmental and natural resources; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's indigenous peoples have relied on clean water; the health of our water is the most important issue in protecting our wild salmon, the entire ecosystem, and all species that rely on water; and

WHEREAS: Our spiritual connection to the land, air, sea and resources which are abundant; gives our people purpose and identity which is more than just water and food, it provides the ability to harvest resources from nature which gives each person, family, and community a reason to live in the areas we have inhabited for millennia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives agree that the future of the generations yet to come hinge upon actions taken today by tribal, regional non-profits, ANCSA Corporations, state and federal leaders to protect the health of our waters and wild salmon therefore any current or future regulation, statute change, or new statute must meet this standard of protecting our traditional Native ways of living and will use the tribal consultation to do so.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-58

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ESTABLISHING DREAM CENTERS IN EACH VILLAGE TO CREATE A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO SLEEP
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Students need help with having a safe environment where they could go to get enough sleep and feel safe which impacts their ability to learn and thrive; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to overcrowded housing and negative social surroundings many students come to school without getting the 9-12 hours of sleep for 6 to 12 year-old children and 8-10 hours of sleep for 13 to 18-year-old children as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics; and
- WHEREAS:** Funding for tribal health and social service not-for-profits is obtained through partnerships with tribes and that funding can be used to help tribes establish Dream Centers or another safe place to sleep in each community for children 6-18 years-old.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the tribal health and social service not-for-profit organizations to help communities with the problem of designating and staffing a dream house or appropriate safe house for children in each community.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND
YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-59

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE TEACHING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION WITH FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska recognizes all Alaska Native languages as official languages and sets the mandatory curriculum for all Alaskan school through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; and
- WHEREAS:** A student's knowledge of the Alaska Native language relevant to their area fosters pride in their identity and promotes a sense of belonging at school and in their community and communities do not currently have adequate access to Alaska Native language education; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages relevant to each school or area can be taught alongside education and treated as an equal in importance to all other subjects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request of the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development implement a one-year foreign language requirement with funding for graduation from all Alaska high school that includes Alaska Native languages.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND
YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-60

TITLE: REQUESTING SUPPORT FIVE FOCUS AREAS IN ALASKA – COMPACTING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Tribes in Alaska support funding for five Tribal focus areas in Alaska for Compacting of Bureau of Indian Educational (BIE) funds; and

WHEREAS: Kenaitze Indian Tribe supports the five Tribal focus areas in Alaska, who are in need of educational funding, to enhance educational opportunities for Tribes in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: the Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council supports the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Tlingit and Haida

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the five (5) Tribal focus areas which

include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Southeast Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution once accepted by the participants, be transmitted to NCAI to support the five focus areas in Alaska – Compacting for Bureau of Indian Education Funds for the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Southeast Alaska.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-61

- TITLE:** CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO INCORPORATE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND SOLUTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 and 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 such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Climate warming is creating a burden to our future generations that are facing the consequences of inaction. Alaska Native communities are facing major spiritual, emotional, physical, economic and cultural consequences from the increasing harm caused by climate warming and the transport, release, and exposures to harmful contaminants such as mercury and persistent organic pollutants. The massive die offs of seabirds and marine mammals, shrinking sea ice and permafrost, increasing storm surges, wildfires and other consequences of climate change are endangering our cultures, our way of life and survival as Indigenous peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native voices and guidance are often missing from discussions and decisions related to climate change and contaminants, their effects upon our communities' health and wellbeing, and solutions to solve these crises; and
- WHEREAS:** Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) declares that *"Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in*

decision-making in matters which would affect their rights...as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions;” and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon elected officials, state and federal agencies to meet their obligations to incorporate tribal government priorities when addressing the climate crisis and to fully include tribes in discussions and decisions toward solutions and a rapid shift to a just, equitable, and pollution-free energy future. This is necessary to ensure the protection of our way of life, our traditional foods, our cultures, our health and well-being, and future generations.



Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-62

TITLE: UPDATE ALASKA HISTORY CURRICULUM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 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 and 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 Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Required statewide Alaskan History classes currently do not include oral history from regional Elders or support from Regional Corporations and Tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Alaskan Board of Education currently does not give students the opportunity to acquire authentic information about their cultures and to build pride in who they are and where they are from; and

WHEREAS: A more accurate curriculum would include each Tribes' traditional ways, history, and beliefs from each region's perspective so all students could be more culturally sensitive to Alaska's past and future, and so all students in Alaska have access to more factual information.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives agree to advocate for rightful representation in Alaska history and to the Regional Corporations, Tribal entities, and the Alaskan Board of Education for their adoption and support.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND
YOUTH CONFERENCE
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 19-63

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV), TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DMV SERVICES IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** According to the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA), all air travelers must show valid identification at airport checkpoints in order to travel; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal REAL ID Act established requirements for State-issued driver's licenses and identification (ID) cards in order for them to be valid for air travel, and the State of Alaska DMV is responsible for implementing these requirements in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Beginning October 1, 2020, Alaska residents must have a REAL ID-compliant State-issued driver's license or ID card, or other valid form of identification (such as a passport or tribal-issued photo ID); and
- WHEREAS:** Many residents in Alaska Native communities do not have alternate forms of valid identification and rely on State-issued driver's licenses or ID cards for air travel; and
- WHEREAS:** Without assistance from the Alaska DMV, many residents of our Alaska Native communities will be unable to obtain REAL ID-compliant State-issued licenses or ID cards because they do not have reasonable access to existing DMV facilities; over one hundred Alaska Native communities are not connected to the road system and the cost of air travel to the nearest DMV facility is prohibitively high; and

WHEREAS: This has the potential to create a crisis in health care as access to commercial air travel is essential for many residents of our Alaska Native communities to obtain access to a higher level of care; and

WHEREAS: If members of the Alaska Native community are unable to obtain REAL ID-compliant State-issued licenses or ID cards by October 1, 2020, many will not have access to health care beyond that provided in their local communities, which could lead to negative outcomes and higher costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFN calls on the State of Alaska DMV to travel to Alaska Native communities in rural Alaska to provide access to DMV services so its members will be able to obtain Real ID-compliant State-issued licenses or ID cards by October 1, 2020.



Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS