



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Eighty-First Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 20-22, 2016  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 16-06

Title: Supporting the Number of Students in Alaska Schools at the Minimum of Ten (10) Students to Qualify for State Funding

By: Juneau Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Community Council represents Tlingit and Haida tribal members living in Juneau, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Constitution requires the State of Alaska to provide for the education of its youth; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives have historically advocated for the equal education for all students including those in rural communities, and;

WHEREAS, a proposal recently advanced by a small number of legislators would raise the minimum number of students required for state school funds from ten (10) to twenty-five (25) students; and

WHEREAS, this proposal would negate the legal and political advances initiated by Alaska Natives to secure equal educational opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, this proposal is advanced under the pretext of saving money when in actuality the savings would be less than \$6 million, which represents less than half of one percent of the State's \$1.2 billion education budget and .17 percent of the \$3.5 billion State deficit anticipated for the coming fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the nominal savings would be offset by the untold and unfathomable costs to Alaska Natives and the State of Alaska in closing rural schools that would be affected by this proposal as evidenced by the historical records of boarding schools and other systems of education that were in place prior to the Molly Hootch case that required that the state establish schools in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, failure to provide for the education of Alaskan students raises Constitutional questions and the potential for legal challenges that could result in further legal expenses and settlement costs such as the 2004 Moore case that took eight years to resolve and resulted in an \$18 million educational settlement from the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives recognize the fiscal crisis facing the State of Alaska and through its Native entities will work to increase and diversify the state's economy and revenues and will share in measures to reach sustainable budgets, but will resist budget cuts that place an inequitable burden on Alaska Natives and rural communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eighty-First Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 20-22, 2016 hereby urges the Alaska State Legislature and Governor Walker to support maintaining the number of students required to receive state school funding at ten (10) students; and

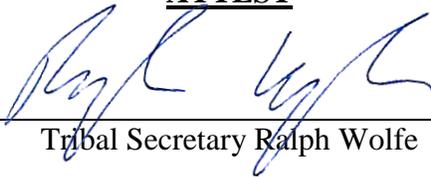
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Central Council conveys its heartfelt thanks to Senator Lyman Hoffman, Senator Gary Stevens, Representative Bryce Edgmon, and Representative Bob Herron for their public expressed support to maintain rural schools and their opposition to change the number of students required to receive state funding from ten (10) to twenty-five (25) students.

ADOPTED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2016, by the Eighty-First Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe