

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 15-17

TITLE: SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN AND ENDORSE THE TOXIC-FREE CHILDREN'S ACT

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 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 2000, AFN passed Resolution 00-44 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS in 2002, the Youth and Elders Conference passed Resolution EY-17 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS in 2011, AFN passed Resolution 11-03 in support of protecting the health of present and future generations by preventing toxic exposures through chemicals policy reform; and

WHEREAS in 2013, AFN passed Resolution 13-23 in support of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS toxic exposures continue to threaten our health because Congress has not yet passed meaningful or protective reform of the ineffective and outdated federal law—the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) that was intended to regulate chemicals used in commerce; and

WHEREAS due to the ineffectiveness of this law, there are approximately 85,000 chemicals on the market, most of which have never been tested for safety for human health yet are ultimately found in our traditional foods, our environment, our bodies, and in our homes, even though these chemicals have never been produced in Alaska or the circumpolar Arctic; and

WHEREAS the chemicals present in our bodies are passed on to our children and harm their ability to learn our languages, songs, stories, and knowledge; and

WHEREAS research has demonstrated that Alaska Native and other Native American populations are at higher health risk from certain substances that are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulate in the environment, the food web, and in the human body; and

WHEREAS our children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of chemical exposures that are known to harm their developing brains, cause learning and developmental disabilities, birth defects, reproductive disorders, and cancers; and

WHEREAS because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children's Act (SB 111) to protect the health of our children and our future generations; and

WHEREAS the SB 111 will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of ten toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. It will also require the labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals. Chemical flame-retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to protect the health of our children and future generations by passing the Toxic-Free Children's Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY:	COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka
President