

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1980

Source

CSHCR 43

Legislative
Resolve No.

17



A resolution endorsing the concept and requesting implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Congress of the United States has adopted the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-608) declaring "[T]hat it is the policy of this Nation to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families by the establishment of minimum Federal standards for the removal of Indian children from their families and the placement of such children in foster or adoptive homes which will reflect the unique values of Indian culture...."; and

WHEREAS it is state policy to promote the stability and security of Native American families; and

WHEREAS historically a highly disproportionate number of Native American children in Alaska are from families broken up by the removal of children with an alarmingly high percentage of these children being placed in non-Native foster homes, adoptive homes, or institutions; and

WHEREAS the primary intent of the Act is to prevent the breakup of Native American families and to preserve the cultural and social standards prevailing in Native culture; and

WHEREAS the intent and policy of the Act accords with, and is a strong tool for implementation of, state policy;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that:

(1) the legislature endorses and supports the concept and policy of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-608);

(2) the governor is urgently requested to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to promptly take the steps necessary to implement the Act in Alaska and to provide the financing necessary for implementation;

(3) the chief justice of the Alaska supreme court is requested to direct the court system to promptly take steps necessary to cooperate in the implementation of the Act in Alaska.