

**34<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL INDIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CONFERENCE  
Acme, Michigan  
May 2, 2013**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 13-01**

**OPPOSITION TO THE “SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND  
INVESTING IN LIFELONG LEARNING” (SKILLS) ACT**

We, the Indian and Native American Grantees of the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC) attending the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Acme, Michigan, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and the several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Native people, to preserve Indian and Native cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian and Native people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the NINAETC are the representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and tribal concerns; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NINAETC is a national organization comprised of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and,

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of NINAETC; and

**WHEREAS**, the workforce Investment Act will soon expire and H.R. 803, The Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Learning (“SKILLS”) Act was introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx (NC-5) to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R.803, the SKILLS Act, was passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 215-202, along party lines, and has been sent to the Senate and referred to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the SKILLS Act focuses on consolidation and streamlining federal workforce investment programs and eliminates 35 programs including Section 166, known as the Native American Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Programs has a unique status and purpose which includes a community focus, unlike that of other programs due to the special relationship of Tribes and the Federal government and these programs are administered in a manner consistent with basic federal Indian policy set by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Don Young (AK-at large) successfully introduced a floor amendment which guarantees a tribal set-aside of 1%, however, the SKILLS Act does not guarantee the protection of other functions of the Native American Program such as direct funding to Tribes, the ability of Tribes to combine WIA funding with other federal employment and training programs under PL 102-477, and does not allow flexibility in the performance measures that recognizes Indian Country's unique economic circumstances, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Program has consistently demonstrated successes in providing program participants comprehensive employment and training services designed to promote the economic and social development of tribal communities across the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, these successes are demonstrated, using 2012 data, where 60.2% (an increase of 6.7% from 2011) of program participants obtained employment at the end of their training, and 78.4% (an increase of 71% from 2011) of program participants retained employment after 6 months according to Indian and Native American Adult Program data; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian and Native American Grantees are concerned that the passage of the SKILLS Act, as passed by the House of Representatives, will detrimentally impact the Indian and Native American Grantees' ability to enhance self-determination and support Indian and Native economies.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members of the NINAETC strongly oppose the SKILLS Act, as it was passed by the house of Representatives, unless it includes tribal provisions that continue to support the Indian and Native American programs; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 34<sup>th</sup> National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference, submits the foregoing resolution to be shared with the Native American Employment and Training Advisory Council, the US Senate and Congress' Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and other committee or members of Congress as deemed appropriate.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference, held at the Grand Traverse Hotel and Spa, Acme, Michigan, on May 2, 2013, where a quorum present.

  
Darrell Waldron  
Chairman, 2013 NINAETC

  
Karen A. Thorne  
Secretary, 2013 NINAETC