



ANB – ANS
JUNEAU, ALASKA – September 2015

Resolution #15-10

Title: Urging the U.S. Congress to pass legislation proposed by the U.S. Department of Justice to improve access to voting for American Indians and Alaska Natives

WHEREAS the United States Department of Justice has proposed federal legislation that would require states or localities whose territory includes part or all of an Indian reservation, an Alaska Native village, or other tribal lands to locate at least one polling place in a venue selected by the tribal government;

WHEREAS participation of tribal leaders and their input was solicited and crucial to the development of this proposed legislation;

WHEREAS in Alaska, turnout among Alaska Natives often falls 15 to 20 or more percentage points below the non-Native turnout rate;

WHEREAS political participation by Native Americans consistently trails that of non-Natives and unequal access to polling places is a significant contributing factor

WHEREAS this legislation addresses serious voting obstacles faced by citizens who are members of Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages; provides equal access to polling places for all eligible citizens, including members of tribes and villages; reinforces our nation's commitment to the fundamental right to vote; and strengthens the government-to-government relationship between the United States and tribal nations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ANS Camp 2 and the ANB & ANS Camp 70, assembled in a joint meeting in September 2015, request that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in October 2015, the Centennial Year of the ANS, urge the U.S. Congress to pass the legislation proposed by the U.S. Department of Justice to improve access to voting for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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