



Grand Camp Resolution # 16- 01

Resolution Supporting Action by the Alaska State Legislature, Governor Walker, Congress and the President on Addressing Childhood Inflicted Trauma

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native [AI/AN] Tribes historically raised their children in a culture of love, respect, and nurturing that engaged multiple generations in the role of parents; and

WHEREAS, Protecting AI/AN children from harm was a responsibility assumed by the entire tribe; and

WHEREAS, Historical trauma [including a number of practices such as planned violence (genocide, imprisonment, torture), cultural destruction (forced abandonment of spiritual practices, taking sacred sites and elimination of cultural patrimony), segregation (removal from traditional homelands), intentional planting of fatal disease and deprivation leading to starvation, physical injury and mental distress] was inflicted on Tribes, and

WHEREAS, The collective impact of Historical Trauma has led to a pattern of negative behaviors and poor health that are perpetuated through the transmission of trauma inter-generationally, as described through the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study and follow up research, and have disrupted traditional AI/AN parenting practices; and

WHEREAS, Disruption of traditional parenting and the accumulation of negative behaviors such as substance abuse, domestic violence, chronic unemployment, educational underachievement and myriad other offensive and negative behaviors and outcomes, have caused many AI/AN CHILDREN to be raised in harmful conditions, and experience numerous negative consequences that are linked to childhood trauma such as increased rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, violent behaviors, high dropout rate and many more; and

WHEREAS, Other States (including Washington State, Oregon, Iowa, Maine, Vermont and Wisconsin, among others) and various AI/AN Tribes, have started to utilize a trauma

informed focus to address the many issues raised by childhood trauma, with various levels of success; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska State House considered House Concurrent Resolution 21 in 2016, and its sponsor intends to reintroduce similar legislation in 2017 to encourage the Alaska State Legislature and Governor Bill Walker to consider the impact of childhood trauma in both policy and program development.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp meeting in Juneau, Alaska, October 5-8, 2016, endorse the use of Trauma Informed policy and programs based on the research behind the Adverse Childhood Experience Study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that State and Federal legislation be enacted to both recognize the huge issues caused within Indian Country by Historical Trauma and the ensuing Intergenerational Transfer of Trauma through Adverse Childhood Experiences; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that existing programs developed to address Trauma, and new programs designed to help victims of childhood trauma, be funded at a level that will help address the substantial issues created by unresolved childhood trauma.

/s/ Sasha Soboleff

Grand President
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Devlin Anderstrom

Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Cecelia Tavoieiro

Grand President
Alaska Native Sisterhood

/s/ Carol Duis

Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Sisterhood