

**Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes**  
**Resolution No. 08-06**

**Resolution to oppose the Elimination of Johnson O' Malley Funding**

**WHEREAS,** the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) is an intertribal organization representing 34 federally recognized tribes in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa, each having sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and

**WHEREAS,** Native American populations have made significant advances in achieving academic success as demonstrated by a study conducted in 2005 by the National Center on Education Statistics; and

**WHEREAS,** the Johnson O'Malley Act of 1934 program is a supplementary aid program geared to offset the financial deficit of unmet extraordinary and exceptional cases of need, in that the Federal Government will bear the added expense for services to the Indian population in collaboration within state public school systems; and

**WHEREAS,** the JOM program meets the focused goal of academic achievement by providing Indian students ages 3 to grade 12 with supplemental educational programs or support, so that these students can pursue educational opportunities and attain academic success; and .

**WHEREAS,** President Bush's FY2007 budget proposes to eliminate JOM, purporting that JOM programs are duplicative of other programs within the Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS,** in the FY2006 House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Report accompanying the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill, the Committee rejected the Administration's FY 2006 budget request to cut JOM by over 50%, stating that the Administration's justification for the reductions -- that there are other programs in the government that could provide these funds (which is the same justification given in the President's FY 2007 request) -- "is completely unfounded"; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a lack of evidence to prove that the elimination of these grants will allow the BIA to focus its resources on the requirements of the Bureau-funded school system, while also reducing redundancy with other Federal programs; and

**WHEREAS,** the elimination of the Johnson O'Malley programs hold no guarantees that the Indian Self Determination Act of 1975 will continue to be enforced according to the purpose of the regulations established in Part 273 of Public Law 93-638; and

**WHEREAS,** the JOM program meets the basic educational needs of Indian students, assists them in achieving academically, provides educational and cultural opportunities, promotes self confidence and self-esteem, and creates and maintains parental, community, and tribal support networks for them,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that MAST strongly opposes the FY 2007 BIA budget request that proposes to eliminate \$16.4 million in Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) grants, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that MAST supports NIEA's requests to have the National JOM program funded at a 5% increase over FY 2006 funding levels for a total of \$17.2 million in FY 2007.

### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 03-06 was passed on March 13, 2006 at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present with 16 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.

  
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Robert Chicks, President

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary

# Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes

Resolution No. 09-06

## TO SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING AND LEGISLATION FOR NATIVE LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

**WHEREAS,** the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) is an intertribal organization representing the thirty-three (33) federally recognized tribes and three (3) intertribal organizations in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa, each having sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and

**WHEREAS,** in Native communities across the country, Native languages are in rapid decline and it is estimated that only twenty indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050; and

**WHEREAS,** the key to stemming the loss of Native American languages is by significantly increasing support for Native American language immersion programs. It is well proven that language immersion programs are one of the few effective ways to create fluent speakers in Native languages; and

**WHEREAS,** data shows that Native students who go through an immersion program perform substantially better academically than Native students who have not gone through such a program; and

**WHEREAS,** enacted in 1990, the Native American Languages Act (NALA) reversed the federal government's previous policy of eliminating Native American languages and, instead, established a federal policy to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedoms of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1992, the Congress amended NALA to create a Native American languages grant program within the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

**WHEREAS,** currently, the only federal agency that provides grants for Native American language immersion programs is ANA and funding through ANA has typically been less than \$400,000.00 a year to support language immersion programs; and

**WHEREAS,** H.R. 4766, the Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006, introduced in the second session of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, will amend the NALA to create a competitive grant program within the U.S. Department of Education for Native language immersion programs in Native communities; and

**WHEREAS,** this grant program would provide grants to tribes and tribal organizations to create immersion programs called Native American Language Nests and Native American Language Survival Schools. The Language Nest grants would provide financial support to tribes and tribal entities to create and/or continue Native language immersion programs for children under the age of seven and their families. The language survival school grants would provide immersion programs for students in elementary and secondary school; and

**WHEREAS,** similar legislation has been introduced in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress both in the Senate (S.575) and the House (HR. 2362 and HR 2690), however none of these bills were enacted into law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the MAST supports legislation and language, including H.R. 4766, that creates a competitive grant program within the U.S. Department of Education for Native language immersion programs in Native communities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that MAST requests an increase of \$2 million in funding to the budget of the Administration on Native Americans to be specifically used to support language immersion grants, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the MAST will work with their Congressional delegations to support passage of this bill, the House Education and Workforce Committee to hold a mark-up of the bill, and House leadership to support floor action of the bill and referral to the Senate for similar action.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution No. MA-06 was passed on March 14, 2006 at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present with 16 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.

  
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Robert Chicks, President

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary

**Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes**  
**Resolution No. 10-06**

**Provisions Concerning Title V in the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act Affecting Employment Training Opportunities for Low-Income American Indian Elders**

**WHEREAS,** the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) is an intertribal organization representing the thirty-three (33) federally recognized tribes and three (3) intertribal organizations in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa, each having sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and

**WHEREAS,** the Older Americans Act is under consideration for reauthorization in the 109th Congress and the White House Conference on Aging of December 2005 has produced resolutions addressing provisions to be amended within the Act; and

**WHEREAS,** the Act contains several key provisions affecting American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders; and

**WHEREAS,** Title V of the Older Americans Act, entitled the "Senior Community Service Employment Program" provides employment training opportunities for low-income seniors across the country through community service and placement in private employment. This population, especially older American Indians, face several barriers to employment such as geographic isolation, language, culture, skills/education lack of formal education, and transportation. The program assists community based, non-profit organizations by creating access to an experienced and valuable labor pool; and

**WHEREAS,** the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act passed in 2000, the U.S. Department of Labor only issued final regulations in April 2004 and implemented significant changes to Title V, ranging from new data collection and reporting requirements, changes in eligibility criteria causing an adverse effect; and, the impact of these continual changes has been dramatic with constant disruptions for both the participants, the community based organizations where they serve and the State Units on Aging and National Sponsors that administer the program; and

**WHEREAS,** Title V of the Older Americans Act provides for a National Indian Sponsor to assure employment training and placement services are provided to Indian Elders who have traditionally been underserved because of their location, discrimination,

and poor employment prospects. The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) has operated the Senior Community Service Employment Program since 1989. NICOA currently operates the program in 15 states, serving all low-income seniors, but primarily focusing on American Indian Elders on the reservations and in urban areas; and

**WHEREAS,** in the upcoming reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, the U.S. Department of Labor that oversees the administration of Title V is proposing to dismantle the program as currently operated by 50 State Units on Aging and 13 National Sponsors, including the National Indian Council on Aging, and competitively block grant the program to states; and

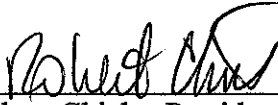
**WHEREAS,** if the proposal by the U.S. Department of Labor is accepted by the U.S. Congress, the participation and access of low-income American Indian Elders to SCSEP will effectively cease to exist as the states will not do the outreach, enrollment or job development that NICOA's staff undertakes on a daily basis to ensure the Elders' participation. The states do not have the background or demonstrated commitment to addressing the geographic isolation, language barriers or cultural norms to ensure the continued participation of American Indian Elders in the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes does hereby request from the President and Congress of the United States to provide the necessary services under Title V to American Indian Elders that the Older Americans Act and the federal trust responsibility are designed to address by implementing the following recommendations:

- Reject the U.S. Department of Labor's proposal to dismantle Senior Community Service Employment Program's dual structure of operation by State Units on Aging and National Sponsors;
- Maintain the program's focus on community service and employment;
- Request the U.S. Office of Civil Rights examine the Department of Labor's interpretation and subsequent implementation policies that have inadvertently caused a negative impact on the American Indian and minority participants served by the State Units on Aging and National Sponsors, limiting both groups' ability to provide SCSEP services to low-income older workers;
- Retain the National Indian Organization Sponsor and its exclusion from state planning;
- Increase funding to \$8 million for Title V services to the National Indian Organization Sponsor as the number of older low-income Americans is growing, including that of American Indian Elders;
- Relocate the Title V program to the Administration on Aging, which oversees all other Titles within the Older Americans Act, if the U.S. Department of Labor will not support the needs of older workers by allowing the program's continued operation by State Units on Aging and National Sponsors, and

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 10-06 was passed on March 14, 2006 at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present with 16 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.

  
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Robert Chicks, President

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary

## **Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes**

**Resolution No. 11-06**

### **Provisions affecting American Indian, with Alaska Native, and Hawaiian Elders in the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act for Submission to the White House Conference on Aging .**

- WHEREAS,** the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) is an intertribal organization representing the thirty-three (33) federally recognized tribes and three (3) inter-tribal organizations in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa, each having sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Older Americans Act is under consideration for reauthorization in the 109th Congress and the White House Conference on Aging will produce resolutions addressing provisions to amend within the Act; and
- WHEREAS,** the Act contains several key provisions affecting American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian elders; and
- WHEREAS,** the Act previously provided for an Indian White House Conference on Aging; and .
- WHEREAS,** Title II states that the Assistant Secretary of Aging shall "serve as the effective and visible advocate for older individuals within the Department of Health and Human Services, and with other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the federal government by maintaining active review and commenting responsibilities over all Federal policies affecting older individuals;" and
- WHEREAS,** older Indians received fewer than 1% of the services provided under Title III of the older Americans Act; and
- WHEREAS,** older Indians have the highest rates of disease prevalence and receive less than half of what the federal government provides to Federal prisoners for health care, and Title VI funds assist native elders in eating healthier and managing chronic disease; and
- WHEREAS,** Title IV funds projects to decrease the prevalence of health disparities among older Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** Title IV, Part A also provides funding for resource centers and national technical assistance centers to research and examine the health and social services that Indian elders require; and
- WHEREAS,** Title V provides for a National Indian Sponsor to assure that employment training and placement services are provided to Indian elders, who have traditionally been underserved because of their location, discrimination, and poor employment prospects; and

**WHEREAS,** Title VI has never had comparable funding to Title III as mandated and the provision of services to Indian elders is limited to nutrition services and usually offered only a few days a week; and

**WHEREAS,** elder abuse is a growing issue facing elders in Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS,** the Administration has never requested funding for Title VII, part B that establishes grants for Native American entities to "execute vulnerable elder rights protection activities" for older Indians,

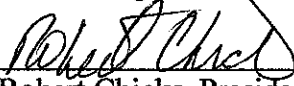
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Midwest Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, does hereby request from the President and Congress of the United States to provide the necessary services under Title VI to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian elders that the Older Americans Act, and the federal trust responsibility are designed to address by implementing the following recommendations:

- The Assistant Secretary shall act as an advocate and request adequate funding for Title VI services for older Indians when the president formulates his annual budget;
- Elevate the Director of the Office of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian programs to the Deputy Secretary level;
- Reestablish the occurrence of the Indian White House Conference on Aging as previously provided in the Act;
- Provide \$1.3 million for national training and technical assistance opportunities for Title VI directors, staff and caregivers;
- Require the Area Agencies on Aging under Title III to work closely with the Title VI in providing services to Native American elders;
- Provide for continued training to improve Native American elders access to social services in Indian country;
- Continue support for national technical assistance centers and resource centers focusing on the health disparities and social service needs of Indian elders;
- Retain the National Indian Sponsor for the Title V and exclusion from state planning;
- Increase funding to \$8 million for Title V services to National Native American Sponsor as the number of older low income Americans is growing, including that of Indian elders;
- Increase appropriations for Title VI from \$26.4 million to \$100 million by 25% increments annually;

- Provide adequate funding for supportive services such as transportation and provision of meals up to seven days a week;
- Request \$1 million in first-time funding for Title VII, part B. to provide elder abuse awareness and protection grants in Indian country;

### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 11-00 was passed on March 14, 2006 at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present with 16 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.

  
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Robert Chicks, President

ATTEST:

  
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Secretary