



**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE
FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION**

A Resolution entitled, "Opposition to Moving the Head Start from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education"

WHEREAS, This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and

WHEREAS, The Three Affiliated Tribes Constitution authorizes and empowers the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Tribal Business Council to engage in activity on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and

WHEREAS, For a number of years, the Head Start program has served thousands of pre-school children on many Indian reservations who are at risk of not achieving their potential because of poverty and other factors by offering them a holistic, community based, family-centered, culturally relevant and multi-disciplinary approach focusing on the mental, cultural and physical development of pre-school children within the context of their families; and

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2004, the present Presidential Administration of George W. Bush has proposed a transfer of the Head Start program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, The National Head Start Association, along with the National Indian Head Start Directors' Association are extremely concerned that the Administration's plans for restructuring the Head Start program will lead to the elimination of the social program support networks that currently surrounds Head Start children and their families, because of the emphasis of the Bush Administration on performance standards and academic achievement, which is only a part of the total program for children served by Head Start; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that the holistic approach of Head Start to issues of pre-school development of children remains intact to meet the needs of the families in tribal communities in this generation as well as generations to follow; and

WHEREAS, Within the Head Start Bureau exists the American Indian/Alaska Native Program Branch (AI/ANPB) to serve as the direct contact for Tribal program grantees which serves to maintain the current government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes and it is vital that the AI/ANPB remain intact to continue this direct relationship with the Tribes and to ensure cultural sensitivity and appropriateness for Tribal programs, and any other arrangement dilutes this relationship and weakens the Head Start Performance Standards and other Head Start regulations, and is therefore not acceptable.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that for the reasons stated in this Resolution, the Tribal Business Council hereby strongly opposes the proposal to transfer the Head Start program to the Department of Education; and


NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council hereby urges the Congressional delegation for North Dakota and the leadership of both parties in the United States Congress to oppose the transfer of the Head Start program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education and urges all other tribes with Head Start programs to pass similar resolutions.

CERTIFICATION


I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation hereby certify that the tribal Business Council is composed of seven (7) members of whom five (5) constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Regular Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened and held on the 13 day of Feb, 2003, that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 7 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman [] Voting. [] Not Voting.

Dated this 13 day of Feb, 2003.


Secretary, Randy Phelan
Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:


Chairman, Tex G. Hall
Tribal Business Council