

**TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE OF LOUISIANA
TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO TBNR-2019-002**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978

WHEREAS, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana is a federally recognized Indian tribe;

WHEREAS, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Council (“Tribal Council”) is the duly elected governing body of the Tribe, as authorized by Article VII, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Tribe (“Constitution”);

WHEREAS, the United States and Indian Tribes have a unique government-to-government relationship set out in the U.S. Constitution, treaties, and statutes and affirmed through centuries of court precedent; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Federal Government (1) to uphold that unique relationship; and (2) to protect American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) children, to whom the United States owes a trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 is a Federal law that governs jurisdiction over the removal of Native American children from their families; and

WHEREAS, research shows that family, culture, and community provide all children, including American Indian and Alaska Native youth, with the tools needed to grow into healthy, resilient adults;

WHEREAS, research conducted in the 1970s showed that — (1) 1 out of every 3 AI/AN children was removed from their families and placed in foster care or adoptive homes; (2) 85 percent of these foster care placements and 90 percent of these adoptions resulted in AI/AN children being placed in non-Indian homes; and (3) most of these removals were not related to the threat of abuse or neglect, but rather to— (A) a lack of understanding of tribal childrearing and cultural practices; and (B) the bias of those involved in making key decisions in the child welfare process;

WHEREAS, to address the unwarranted, disproportionate removal of AI/AN children from their homes, Congress wrote the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C.1901 et seq.) to carefully balance (1) the unique Federal responsibility for the welfare of AI/ANs, including AI/AN children; (2) the historical role of the States in formulating and executing child welfare policy; and (3) the inherent and continuing sovereign authority of Indian Tribes to be involved in important child welfare decisions; and

WHEREAS, recent legal threats to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 now have the potential to impact tribal sovereignty and American Indian and Alaska Native families nationwide; and

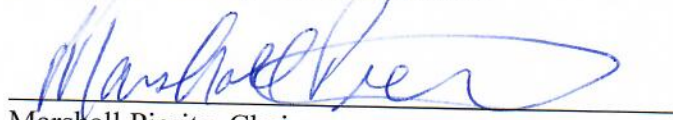
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Council hereby recognizes and affirms its continued support for the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby calls on all Indian tribes, national and regional organizations to support the efforts of the United States, Cherokee Nation, Oneida Nation, Quinault Indian Nation, and Morongo Band of Mission Indians in their defense of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

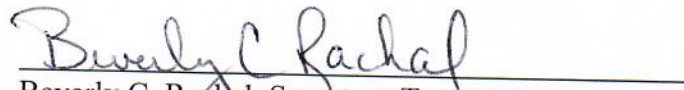
CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, certify that the Tribal Council of said Tribe is composed of seven (7) members, of whom 5 , constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof, duly called, noted, convened and held this 10th day of January, 2019; and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by a vote of 6 members in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2019.



Marshall Pierite, Chairman



Beverly C. Rachal, Secretary-Treasurer