



ATNI Winter 2025 Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 12

“SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING COMMISSIONS ON BOYS AND MEN”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, many American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) boys and men struggle with acute and disproportionate problems associated with mental health, violence, addiction, and social isolation; and

WHEREAS, each year we lose over 500 boys and men to suicide nationally, over 300 boys and men to homicide, over 1,000 boys and men to drug poisoning, over 1,000 boys and men to alcohol-induced deaths; and

WHEREAS, the life expectancy for AI/AN men is seven years shorter than for their female peers; and

WHEREAS, the age-adjusted death rate for AI/AN men is higher than for any other racial and sex group; and

WHEREAS, mental and behavioral health issues such as depression, suicide, and addictions are often the result of hopelessness, anxiety, and despair; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN boys and men experience homelessness at higher rates compared to the general population; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN boys have among the highest high school dropout rates among racial groups with a 2.2 times more likelihood of being suspended from school compared to white boys; and

WHEREAS, male AI/AN enrollees in four-year colleges graduate within four years at a rate that is 25% lower than their female peers; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that 24% of AI/AN boys and men aged 16 to 24 are neither working nor in school (referred to as the youth disconnection rate), which is the highest rate of any race or sex group; and

WHEREAS, rates of adult incarceration and youth detention for AI/AN boys and men are disproportionately high; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of advocacy in the government and political arenas, specifically with a focus on uplifting AI/AN boys and men; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation in Washington state has proposed the creation of a state commission on boys and men, but such legislation has so far not been passed and enacted; and

WHEREAS, a commission on boys and men are needed to identify, address, and provide policy and program recommendations to improve the lives and outcomes for AI/AN boys and men; and

WHEREAS, we support a commission to be formed on girls and women as well to identify, address, and provide policy and program recommendations to improve the lives and outcomes for AI/AN girls and women; and

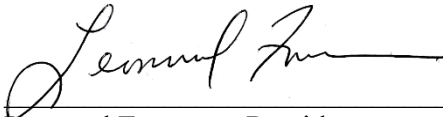
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the establishment of commissions on boys and men by state governments and tribes to produce recommendations for policies and programs that will improve outcomes for American Indian/Alaska Native boys and men, and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on non-tribal commissions on boys and men to include tribal representation; and

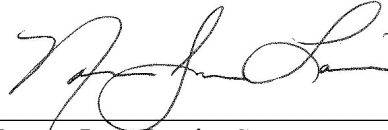
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon on January 26-30, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary