RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION, MONTANA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES TO SUPPORT THE STATE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is the duly elected body representing the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation of Montana and is empowered to act on behalf of the Tribes. All actions shall be adherent to provisions set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.

WHEREAS, the Indian Law Section of the Montana Bar wishes to enact a state version of the Indian Child Welfare Act ("ICWA"), which was enacted in 1978 to stop the widespread removal of Indian Children from their families, homes, and tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes it is in the best interest of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' children to be protected from harm and to prevent the unnecessary trauma that occurs when children are removed from their family, culture, and community; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council acknowledges that tribes and tribal communities, state governments, members of Congress, national and legal organizations, and thousands of Native American individuals have supported ICWA as an essential and effective policy that protects the best interests of Native American children; now

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council supports the legislation of the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act, in order to preserve for us and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our nations, to preserve cultural values, and to promote stable placements for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' children in loving, permanent homes, connected to their families and our culture.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council is hereby delegated authority and responsibility to sign all documents necessary to effect this action.

CERTIFICATION

The Tribal Council duly adopted the foregoing Resolution on December 17, 2024, by a vote of 8 for, 0 opposed, and 0 not voting, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article VI, Section 1 (l), (q), and (k) of the Tribes' Constitution and Bylaws, said Constitution adopted and approved under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended.

Chairman, Tribal Council

ATTEST:

Tribal Secretary