

Fort Belknap Indian Community

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF THE MONTANA INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is the governing body of the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Tribes approved on the 13 day of December 1935, and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Community Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, and general welfare of the Fort Belknap Indian Community (“FBIC”), and

WHEREAS, the FBIC Council is charged with the responsibility of protecting the land base of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, and

WHEREAS, the Community Council is the duly elected body representing the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and is empowered to act on behalf of the Tribes, and

WHEREAS, the Indian Law Section of the Montana Bar wishes to enact a state version of the Indian Child Welfare Act (“ICWA”, 25 USC Secs. 1901-63), which was enacted in 1978 and that governs the jurisdiction over the removal of Indian children from their families in custody, foster care, and adoption cases and to stop the widespread removal of Indian children from their families, homes, and tribal communities, and

WHEREAS, the FBIC Council believes it is in the best interest of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes and their 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 FBIC 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 and governments.

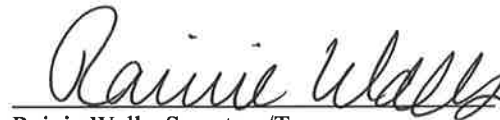
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council hereby supports the legislation of the Montana Indian Child Welfare act, in order to assist the FBIC in protecting and preserving the inherent sovereign rights of our respective tribal governments, to preserve cultural values, and to promote stable

placements for Gros Ventre and Assiniboine children in loving, permanent homes, connected to their families and cultures.

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

ATTEST:



Jeffrey Stiffarm, President
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council


Rainie Walls, Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as the Secretary of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, do hereby certify that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is composed of ten (10) members of whom 10 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held on this 17 day of ~~November~~ ^{December}, 2024; and that the foregoing Resolution of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council was duly adopted and approved the affirmative vote of 0 for; opposed; 1 not voting; temporarily absent; 3 excused absent; and that the said Resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

DATE: 12-2-2024


Rainie Walls, Secretary/Treasurer
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council