



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Third Annual Tribal Assembly
April 18-20, 2018
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 18-22

Title: Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

By: Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Higher Education Act (HEA) is the cornerstone of the federal government's commitment to post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, HEA was first signed into law in 1965 and has been reauthorized at various times since, most recently in 2008, and that reauthorization expired at the end of 2013, but there have been several temporary extensions since that time; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Executive Branch are currently working on the Reauthorization of HEA; and

WHEREAS, annual teacher turnover rates vary among rural districts as exemplified by turnover data in rural Alaska ranging from a low of 7% to more than 52% while urban districts have turnover rates that are generally lower and more similar, from about 8% to more than 10%; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to train individuals that are representatives and residents of rural regions; and

WHEREAS Title II of HEA provides an opportunity to dedicate authorized funds to address different teacher training approaches to improve teacher recruitment in rural communities and to address the high turnover rates and retention of teachers in rural schools and to train teachers for rural schools;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 18-20, 2018, hereby urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support the

reauthorization of the HEA to strengthen teacher and principal preparation programs and to more effectively recruit and retain educators into high need schools and to target high need population through the inclusion of an Alternative Certificate Program that funds universities, colleges of education or other qualified entities to train and support rural residents within their communities to become teachers through online and distance learning programs that meet state certification standards and the U.S. Department of Education accreditation program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support the reauthorization of HEA to meet the teacher hire and retention rates in rural communities by supporting the inclusion of funds that were written into the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) rewrite as important steps;

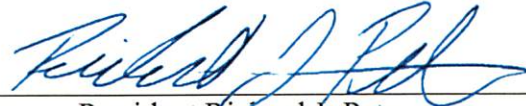
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida recommends to the Alaska Congressional Delegation to direct the Department of Education to continue and expand and provide funding for the following:

1. Retain and revise the PSLF (Public Service Loan Forgiveness) program to target educators.
The Revision to PSLF will include the option for teachers to have forgiveness of loans at 15% a year for 5 years and total payoff if the teacher, administrator, or aide stays in a Title I school with more than 15% Native population for 6 years. PSLF would be limited to teachers, administrators, or aides who work at a Title I school for 10 years. New teachers in these programs would be required to go through an induction program, approved by state Departments of Education, for two years and receive mentoring and 50 hours of professional development each year.
2. Teacher quality partnership grants
3. Teacher and school leader incentive grants
4. Supporting effective educator development grant
5. School leader recruitment and support
6. Create consortia development process to enable recruitment across state lines
7. Evidenced and culturally based preparation and professional development:
8. State and school district flexibility regarding credentials for small and/or rural schools' special education programs. English learners and specialized programs such as science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics

9. Eliminate class size reduction from Title II and targeting to the Title II monies to teacher/administrator training, induction and targeted professional development described above.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April 2018, by the Eighty-Third Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe