

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
RESOLUTION NO. A05-25-179**



**RESOLUTION URGING FORMAL CONSULTATION AND PROTECTION OF
FUNDING FOR TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Spirit Lake Tribe, formerly known as the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, is a federally recognized Indian Tribe governed by a constitution dated April 14, 1944, approved by the Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs on February 14, 1946, and as subsequently amended on January 10, 1958, May 5, 1960, July 14, 1961, July 17, 1969; May 3, 1974; April 16, 1976; May 4, 1981; November 21, 1991; and August 19, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Spirit Lake Tribe generally authorizes and empowers the Spirit Lake Tribal Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribe and of the enrolled members thereof, and

WHEREAS, the United States has a clear trust and treaty responsibility to Tribal Nations for the education of Indian children, as established through the U.S. Constitution and treaties, and reaffirmed in statutes, executive actions, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) 14191, "Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families," seeks to provide school choice options for students Nationwide, including those attending Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools and Tribally Controlled Schools; and

WHEREAS, nearly 48,000 Native students are currently enrolled in BIE-operated or Tribally Controlled Schools, which serve as the fulfillment of the federal government's trust responsibility to Indian education; and

WHEREAS, the chronic underfunding of BIE and Tribally Controlled Schools has historically limited the ability of Tribal Nations to provide high-quality, culturally informed education options, impacting the future of Tribal Nations and Native students; and

WHEREAS, Congress has already established a school choice system for Tribal communities through the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (P.L. 102-97), reinforcing Tribal self-determination and sovereignty in education; and

WHEREAS, any additional development of school choice programs for Indian children must secure separate funding, ensuring that existing funds dedicated to Tribally Controlled Schools and BIE are not depleted or redirected to state education agencies, which would undermine Tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the current Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP), which funds the core operations of BIE and Tribally Controlled Schools, must remain intact and adequately funded to support Native students; and

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WHEREAS, 168 of the 183 Bureau-funded schools are located in rural or remote areas with few, if any, viable alternative education options, making the stability of BIE funding critical to Native students and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations must be formally consulted in any decision-making process regarding the implementation of EO 14191 to ensure that the federal trust responsibility to Indian education is fully upheld; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Spirit Lake Tribe calls upon the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Education to ensure that any implementation of EO 14191 includes formal consultation with Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any Federal program encouraging school choice for Native students should not reduce or redirect existing federal funding for BIE and Tribally Controlled Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any expansion of school choice programs for Native students must be designed in partnership with Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Spirit Lake Tribe urges Congress and the Administration to uphold their trust and treaty obligations by protecting and enhancing federal funding for BIE and Tribally Controlled Schools, ensuring Native students receive the education they are legally and morally owed.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of six (6) members of whom five (5) were present, constituting a quorum for a Special Meeting duly called and convened on this 20th day of February, 2025 and approved this resolution by an affirmative vote of three (3) in favor, none (0) opposed, none (0) abstaining, and one (1) absent (Kooper Longie, Woodlake District Representative). The Secretary-Treasurer does not vote and the Chairman votes only in case of a tie.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charmayne Bohanon".

**Charmayne Bohanon
Secretary Treasurer**



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lonna J. Street".

**Lonna J. Street
Tribal Chairwoman**