



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ANC-22-032

TITLE: Supporting Federal Pension and Retirement Benefits to Tribal Law Enforcement Officers

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American 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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, public safety needs in Indian country have been chronically underfunded by the federal government for many years, which has resulted in most Tribal Nations supplementing their tribal law enforcement budgets to provide a minimum level of police services; and

WHEREAS, tribal law enforcement officers and tribal justice systems they work within are key to providing public safety and security in Indian country; and

WHEREAS, this chronic lack of federal funding has means that Tribal Nations often must dedicate large portions of their general budgets to provide tribal officer salaries that are competitive with state and local police agencies to have as many law enforcement officers on the ground as possible; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations that are able to pay competitive tribal law enforcement officer salaries still often struggle with recruitment and retention because tribal law enforcement officers do not have access to federal pension and retirement benefits and, in most cases, state pension and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations would have a better ability to recruit and retain tribal law enforcement officers if their officers were able to accrue federal law enforcement pension and retirement benefits for each year of service as a tribal law enforcement officer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) calls upon Congress and the Administration to ensure that tribal law enforcement officers are able to accrue federal law enforcement officer pension and retirement benefits for each year of service as a tribal law enforcement officer; and

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Anchorage, Alaska from June 12-16, 2022 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Stephen Roe Lewis, Recording Secretary