



**LEECH LAKE RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024 –43**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED 2024 AMENDMENTS TO THE  
MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT**

- WHEREAS,** The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe ("Band") is a Federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and operating under the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** Pursuant to its inherent sovereign authority and its By-Laws, the Band's Reservation Business Committee ("RBC"), made up of duly elected representatives, is the governing body of the Band, having all the legislative powers and responsibilities of the tribal government; and
- WHEREAS,** The RBC is charged with the responsibility of protecting and advocating for the health and welfare of Leech Lake Band members within the exterior boundaries of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** The RBC finds that the Band's children are treasured resources and are vital to the ongoing welfare and prosperity of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for future generations, the State of Minnesota has historically failed to safeguard the Band's children in Minnesota courts and historically facilitated the removal and adoption of the Band's children to non-Indian families without maintaining connections to the children's family, nor the Band's, culture and traditions; and,
- WHEREAS,** The RBC previously supported, in 2023, Minnesota legislation amending the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act to include all of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act expressly stated in Minnesota law to strengthen protections for Indian children and their families who are subject to Minnesota state court proceedings; and,
- WHEREAS,** Legislative testimony from RBC members, other elected Tribal leaders, and Tribal members with lived experience of losing children through Minnesota State Court proceedings during the 2023 legislative session identified a need for additional amendments necessary to improve practice in Minnesota Courts on Indian child custody issues; and,

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**WHEREAS,** Band representatives participated in a 187-member working group comprised of representatives from the Tribes in Minnesota, County Attorneys, County Social Service Directors, County Board members, organizations serving Indian people, Domestic Violence Advocates, and family law and probate attorneys throughout the State of Minnesota who met to draft changes to facilitate compliance in areas of law besides child protection, clarify language, strengthen existing provisions, decrease unnecessary litigation with foster parents, and provide consequences for invalidation of proceedings; and,

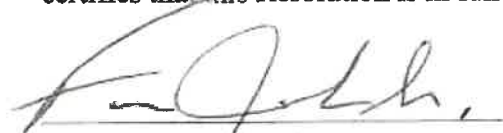
**WHEREAS,** The purpose of this Resolution is to identify the Band's support for further amendments to Minnesota law to ensure the protection of Indian children and their families from unnecessary interference by the State of Minnesota and agents authorized thereby.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Leech Lake RBC, at a duly called meeting with a quorum present, does hereby support amendments to Minnesota Statutes 2022 and 2023 Supplement sections 260, 260C, 260D, 260E, 259, and 524, as attached hereto as Exhibit A, and urges the Minnesota Legislature to adopt these proposed amendments.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** That this Resolution is effective immediately.

**CERTIFICATION**

**WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and acted on by a vote of \_\_\_\_ for, \_\_\_\_ against and \_\_\_\_ silent at a Special Meeting of the Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee, a quorum being present, held on February 8, 2024 at Cass Lake, Minnesota. Accordingly, this Resolution is duly adopted by the Reservation Business Committee for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and the Reservation Business Committee further certifies that this Resolution is in full force and has not been amended or rescinded in any way.



Faron Jackson Sr., Chairman  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



Leonard Fineday, Secretary/Treasurer  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe