



INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 01102025_01

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Relative Caregiver Recommendations and Fiscal Analysis Bill

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of 10 of the 11 federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from the state department, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, American Indian populations are often identified by the various federal and state agencies as a minority and smallest ethnic group in the United States, and

WHEREAS, American Indian people are citizens of, or descendants of citizens of sovereign nations, federally recognized tribes, and possess a unique political status that is not racial or ethnic in nature; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council supports the recommendations of the Relative Licensing and Support Work Group, contained in the Fall 2024 draft report. These recommendations aim to change both processes and statutory provisions to help license relatives for foster care more quickly and efficiently, without compromising safety. They are based on the national model standards which were created through the work and collaboration of thousands of practitioners around the country, including those from tribal communities. The recommendations support keeping families connected and improving access to resources through creative anti-poverty measures intended to increase financial support for relative caregivers.

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council also continues to support through this resolution the fiscal analysis bill from the 2024 session, HF4192. This bill will be reintroduced in the 2025 session. Completing a comprehensive fiscal map of funding streams in Minnesota's Child Welfare system will benefit children and families in Minnesota's tribal communities, and tribal members living around the state. This bill provides a choice for tribal communities in Minnesota to participate. The use of an independent contractor vetted by MIAC and others will ensure that the chosen contractor has a deep cultural and equity lens when completing the community engagement needed to complete the analysis and map.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Indian affairs Council supports the recommendations of the Relative Licensing and Support Work Group, contained in the Fall 2024 draft report.

CERTIFICATION: We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon a vote of 1 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on January 10, 2025, at Tinta Wita / Prairie Island Indian Community, Minnesota.



Robert. L Larsen, Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



Robert Deschampe, Vice Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council