

TO DECLARE SUPPORT FOR THE DEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA'S TREATY TERRITORY

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

ANTHONY DILLARD INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL

A COUNCIL BILL

TO APPROVE and declare support for the dependent and independent school districts located within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Treaty Territory.

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government on behalf of Choctaw people; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continuing government to government relationship with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Tribal Council, which is the official legislative body of the above-named Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation has an inherent governmental duty and power to promote and protect the education, health, peace, morals, and general welfare of the Choctaw Nation, our communities, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has 22 dependent school districts within its treaty territory in southeastern Oklahoma, and 85 total school districts. Many of these are small, very rural remote schools. These small school districts are the heart of Choctaw communities and embrace students' culture and Choctaw heritage; and

WHEREAS, this culturally relevant education and community welfare could be jeopardized if these dependent and small independent schools are forced to consolidate into larger school districts. Consolidation could devastate Choctaw communities and Choctaw citizens who attend these schools; and


WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State School Board of Education is proposing changes to Administrative Rules relating to "Mandatory Annexation." These proposed changes place all of Oklahoma's public schools at risk of closure by the State School Board of Education. These problematic rule changes would allow the State Board to bypass local school districts and force their consolidation; and

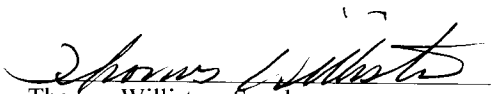
WHEREAS, The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council opposes the Oklahoma State School Board of Education's proposed rule changes to Rule 210:1-3-2 (b)(1).

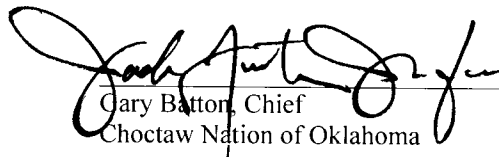
THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED, that the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council hereby declares its support for the continued operation of all public schools located within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's treaty territory in southeastern Oklahoma.


CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that ten (10) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on March 12, 2016.. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 78 -16 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of ten (10) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.


Anthony Dillard, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Gary Patton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Date: 3-16-16