

## **MY BLACK CHILDREN ARE CHEROKEE CITIZENS**

(In response to: Muskogee Phoenix article 3.15.07)

### **NATIONAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN, INC. STRONGLY OBJECTS TO DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF BLACK INDIANS**

March 20, 2007

My three adult children are Black-Cherokee citizens and they have NOT been 'purged' from the tribe because of the color of their skin, or with the recent 3-3-07 vote of the Cherokee citizens, which was to amend the Cherokee Constitution to say that we want our citizens to be of Indian blood. Nor will my children be removed from the tribe, tribal rolls, or dis enrolled by Cherokee Nation, as misperceived by members of the Black Caucus, National 'org.' of Congress of Black Women, or public at large.

To further state that federally recognized tribes, "enjoy" federal funding is a total misrepresentation and obvious disconnect of understanding the nation to nation relationships.

By threatening to cease funding of vital services such as IHS, would also cut off health care to my youngest son, a Black-Cherokee, who was recently diagnosed with a rare and incurable disease. The immediate risk of with-holding IHS health care would be a direct act by the Black Caucus, and the National Congress of Black Women, Inc., towards a Black man, my son. This threat also reaffirms the lack of comprehending the sovereignty of indigenous nations and treaties in regards to our rights of self determination.

As a public officer of the USA I would think the understanding and process of writing bills into law and having what's needed for the people often compromised with items of other parties' interests being attached to vital legislation. When one studies most laws and especially treaties one will see the needs of the US government were always addressed first. It was determined that with each decision Anglo induced thinking set the terms and made 'changes' to the ways and customs of indigenous people.

Is there such a thing as legislation in the format of, 'line item' choices? NO. Nor was it such the case with the 1866 Treaty. The tribes could not pick and choose what was acceptable without risking the loss of all entitlements, such as lands.

My Black-Cherokee adult children and my granddaughter are NOT disenfranchised by Cherokee Nation as Cherokee Citizens.

Twila Pennington  
Cherokee citizen, Blue clan.  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma