

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

DECLARATION 082111-01

**LTBB Support for the State of Michigan Proposed Legislation,
called the Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act**

A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. One or more Tribal Councilors may sign onto a Declaration as individual Councilors. A Declaration shall not obligate or commit the Tribal Council in any manner. Declarations do not require formal action by the Tribal Council.

The Waganakising Odawak is a nation of citizens with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance; and

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621); and

The LTBB Constitution, Article I, section B.2 and section B.5 the LTBB has a duty to protect and nurture our children who comprise our future leaders, citizens and voters;

There is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of LTBB than our children;

LTBB believes the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 ("ICWA") is not necessarily comprehensible or comprehensive and there are several issues for which the ICWA does not provide adequate explanation or instruction;

In LTBB's experience, ICWA is not followed consistently across the state of Michigan;

The Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act ("MIFPA") has been drafted to clarify and heighten the awareness of the ICWA in the state of Michigan;

LTBB believes passage of MIFPA into state law will increase compliance with the federal law;

The undersigned Tribal Councilors declare that they support the passage of the proposed Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act into State law.

Tribal Councilor J. Shaganaguet

Date: 8-21-11

Tribal Councilor JOHN BOTT

Date: 8-21-11

Tribal Councilor Rita Shaganaguet

Date: 08-21-11

Tribal Councilor ARON OTTO

Date: 8-21-11

Tribal Councilor REGINA GASCO BENTLEY

Date: 8-21-11

Tribal Councilor GERALD V. CHINGWA

Date: 8/21/11

Tribal Councilor Melvin K. Kioqime

Date: 8/21/11

Tribal Councilor Belinda Bardwell

Date: 8-21-11

Tribal Councilor MARVIN McHOLLAND

Date: 8-21-11

A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office.