



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Executive Council of the Central Council
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 25-78

Title: Protect the Rights of Tribal Citizens Who Have Served in the U.S. Military and Oppose
Reductions in Veterans' Earned Benefits

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has a long and proud history of military service by our tribal citizens, including combat veterans, retirees, and disabled veterans who have served honorably in defense of our people and the United States; and

WHEREAS, military retirement pay, Veterans Administration disability compensation, and Social Security benefits are separate and earned components of a veteran's compensation and retirement package, each representing distinct service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, recent proposals at the federal level would impose means testing or reduce concurrent benefits for veterans, undermining the promise made to our warriors who served with honor, and disproportionately impacting our tribal citizens who experience high rates of service-connected disability, trauma, and intergenerational sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, many of our veterans served with the understanding that their military retirement, healthcare, and disability compensation would provide stability for themselves and their families, especially when returning to civilian life with physical, mental, and emotional injuries; and


WHEREAS, it is a sacred principle in our Tlingit & Haida values to honor our warriors and uphold our responsibility to those who protect our communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby strongly opposes any federal policy or legislation that would reduce or restrict military retirement pay, Veterans Administration disability compensation, or Social Security benefits earned by our tribal citizens through honorable service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribe will advocate for protections of veterans' benefits and call on the federal government to uphold its promises to our service members, including supporting legislation such as the Major Richard Star Act and opposing any form of means testing or concurrent receipt reduction.

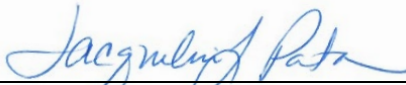
ADOPTED this 16th day of May 2025, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata