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In a major win for Native families, Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of ICWA

Today's [decision](#) is a massive victory for Native children, Native families, and the future of Native peoples. The Court's decision affirmed that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is constitutional, puts the best interests of Native kids first, and is grounded in tribal sovereignty. This ruling respects the work that Tribal Nations have done for millennia to ensure Native kids stay connected to their families, communities, and cultures whenever possible.

Not only will this ruling allow Indian Country to continue to advocate for the best interests of Native children, but it also reaffirms what we have said and known all along: Tribal Nations are sovereign nations. Similar to states or foreign countries, Tribal Nations have the inherent powers of self-government and have the right to provide for the social, economic, safety, and cultural needs of their citizens.

For too long, ICWA's opponents have used cases like *Haaland v. Brackeen* to try to undermine tribal sovereignty. Today, the Justices have sent a clear message that these biased, ahistorical attacks have no legal foundation and will not be tolerated. We hope this decision will lay to rest the political attacks, but let this case show that Indian Country and its many bipartisan allies are united in defense of Native children and of tribal sovereignty.

Today's ruling is a ringing endorsement of the protections that ICWA requires. The ruling reinforces that ICWA is binding federal law. The Court's opinion adds momentum to collective efforts to increase ICWA compliance, enact state-based ICWA laws that build on ICWA's strong foundation, and continue to support tribal child welfare and justice systems.

Indian Country stands together in joy with the countless allies who have supported us throughout this case.

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[The Protect ICWA Campaign](#) (the Campaign) was established by four national Native organizations: the [National Indian Child Welfare Association](#), the [National Congress of American Indians](#), the [Association on American Indian Affairs](#), and the [Native American Rights Fund](#). Together, the Campaign works to serve and support Native children, youth, and families through upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act. The Campaign works to inform policy, legal, and communications strategies with the mission to uphold and protect ICWA.