



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #FTL-04-050

**TITLE: Requesting Congress to Appropriate an Additional \$3 million in FY05 and \$5 million in FY06 to support nation wide Tribal Injury Prevention Programs**

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people and their way of life, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, injuries account for 75 percent of all deaths among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury related death during 1989-1999, followed by suicide, homicide, drowning and fire; and

**WHEREAS**, death rates for all causes were higher among AI/AN males than females; and

**WHEREAS**, during 1989-1998, injury death rates declined for AI/ANs from motor-vehicle crashes (14%), drownings (34%) fires (49%) and for pedestrians (56%); rates increased for firearm-related death (13%) and homicide (20%) and remained unchanged for suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, AI/AN people had motor vehicle related death rates more 1.8 times higher than national rates; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide rates among AI/AN ages 15-34, between 1989-1998, was 21.7 per 100,000 population as compared to United States all races rates of 13/5 per 100,000; and

**WHEREAS**, despite decreases in injury rates for some causes, AI/AN rates for all injuries combined were two times greater than overall U.S. rates; and

**WHEREAS**, AI/AN Children and youth have not benefited to the same degree as white children and youth from interventions in areas such as traffic safety; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment of injury is the single largest expenditure for IHS Contract Health Service funds at a cost of \$42 million per year. IHS Contract and direct care for the treatment of injury equals \$150 million per year; and

**WHEREAS**, an investment in injury prevention is an investment in reducing contract health expenses and the financial burden of tribes. IHS records reveal that over the past 10 years, there has been a 68 percent reduction in direct and CHS injury hospitalizations; and

**WHEREAS**, AI/AN Tribes and the Indian Health Service recognize the importance of preventing injuries and are working to reduce this burden. In 2000, IHS funded 25 Tribes for five years to build Tribal capacity in injury prevention by establishing injury prevention programs in Tribal health departments. The majority of these programs address occupant protection for reducing motor vehicle related injuries and other high priority injuries depending on local need; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian Health Service funding for Tribal Injury Prevention programs is limited to \$1.475 million which funds only 25 Tribes in the nation. Every \$50,000 increase in the program would create another job in a Tribal community as well as start a full-time injury prevention program; and

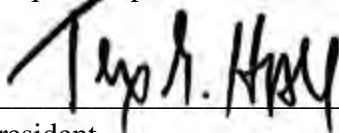
**WHEREAS**, the total need for funding injury prevention programming in Indian Country is \$10 million (200 tribal programs at \$50,000 each).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI encourages their member Tribes to implement as soon as possible effective injury prevention programs within their respective regions and to continue those programs that are already shown to be effective in preventing unintentional and intentional injury and death to their members; and

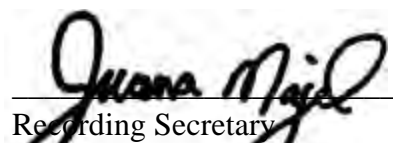
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI hereby supports an additional appropriation by Congress of \$3 million in FY 05 and \$5 million in FY 06 for tribal injury prevention programs.

## **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida October 10-15, 2004 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Broward County Convention Center, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida October 10-15, 2004.