



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-075

TITLE: Requesting Administration on Aging to Support Aging and Long Term Care Systems to Meet the Needs of American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Juana Majel Dixon
Pauma Band – Mission Indians

RECORDING SECRETARY
Matthew Wesaw
Pokagon Band of Potawatomie

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
William Martin
Central Council Tlingit & Haida

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Cara Cowan Watts
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Patricia "Patti" Douville
Rosebud Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST
Marge Anderson
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Tribal Community

PACIFIC
Don Arnold
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Scott Russell
Crow Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Larry Townsend
Lumbee Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Robert Tippeconnic
Comanche Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh

WESTERN
Irene Cuch
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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, 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, the AI/AN population is growing older. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the future age structure of the population will be older than it is now. As this population ages, the median age will be driven by the aging Baby-Boomer generation. In 2011, the first members of the Baby Boomers will reach age 65 and consist of 30% of the U.S. population. The last of this generation will reach age 65 in the year 2029, projected to be only about 16% of the total population; and

WHEREAS, the AI/AN population is young and doubling every 30 years. In 2000, for example, Navajos 60 and over numbered 17,934 and a conservative estimate of the Navajo elders by 2020 is 30,555 an increase of 70%, and by 2050, 50,273. Elders will be healthier, have longer life expectancy, will be more educated and mobile, and their needs will be different from the today's older AI/ANs. The need for community based services will be in demand and their knowledge, expertise and skills will require increased opportunities for training, mentorship, volunteerism, and giving back to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the population of AI/AN Elders is increasing and creating a demand for long term care services. With the Baby-boomers coming of eligible age and the lack of innovative and unique service delivery systems to meet their needs, there will be increasing gaps in demand for services and available resources. A state of the art long term care delivery system will address demands for innovative and unique long term care services to meet the challenges of the changing trends in population. Improving upon existing service systems will contribute to better health care for older AI/AN in the future.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI requests the Administration on Aging to support and conduct a coordinated comprehensive assessment of needs for future generations of older AI/ANs and to help plan a sustainable long term care service system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI recommends identification of resources to design culturally sensitive and an appropriate long term care system for the aging AI/AN populations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

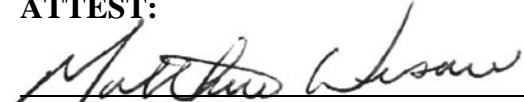
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary