



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-081

TITLE: Addressing the Health Care Workforce Shortages in Indian Country

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, a critical shortage in health professions exist in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, according to the Indian Health Service, 21 percent of physician positions, 17 percent of dentist positions and 16 percent of nursing positions are unfilled; and

WHEREAS, a shortage of health professions directly affects the delivery of health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, additional health care professionals will be needed to implement the expanded services provided by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; and

WHEREAS, increased demand to hire health care professionals will occur due to the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Title V of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act address workforce issues in the health care industry, including Indian specific workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) supports the development of the health care workforce for the entire Indian Health system; and

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WHEREAS, the NHIB, as the national Tribal health care organization, in concert with the NCAI, supports building relationships with other entities such as Pathways Into Health, Association of American Indian Physicians, the Native American Nurses Association, the American Public Health Association, the Indian Health Service, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, and others to address the workforce shortage in Indian Country.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby fully support solving the workforce shortage of health care professionals in Indian Country; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports maximizing opportunities under Title V of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to develop a health care work force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI encourages partnerships between Tribes, national and regional Tribal organizations, health care professional organizations and the Indian Health Service to address the needs of Indian Country in a unified manner; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

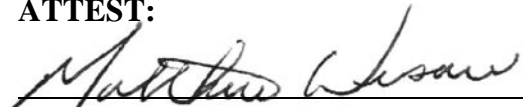
CERTIFICATION

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