



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #TUL-05-002

### TITLE: Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)

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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, 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 Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P) concept was borne out of the need to respond to widespread health threats rampant in the 1950's including the tuberculosis epidemic, high infant mortality, and a high rate of injuries in rural area; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHA/Ps are the first responders and only access to health care in over 178 remote villages; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHA/P is first in line in a network of health professionals, working under field supervisory staff and referral physicians at regional hospitals and a tertiary care facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHA/P has proven to be a cost effective, efficient and essential component in improving the health and quality of life of Alaska Natives, American Indians and non-native local residents, providing emergency and primary health care for more than 80,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, CHA/P services are sustainable, effective and culturally acceptable and well received; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHA/P is a unique program that demonstrated adaptability to advances in medicine and the evolving health needs of the population at a comparatively low cost; the total operating budget for the CHA/P program stands at \$45 million, an average cost of \$563 annually per patient; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHA/P program needs to be able to meet the obligations of providing increasing health care services with limited resources and increasing turnover of all program personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the CHA/P Directors Association provided a needs assessment of statewide programmatic shortfalls.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby completely support the following funding recommendations: \$6.1 million increase for the number of CHA/P positions by 25% (125 positions), \$2.3 million increase for the number of field supervisors by 45% (23 positions), \$1.2 million increase to build training capacity, \$.3 million to assure program standards; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until such time that the United States of America ratifies the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 4, 2005 with a quorum present.

  
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President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from October 30, 2005 to November 4, 2005 at the Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.