



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PHX-08-030

TITLE: Declaring a State of Emergency for Indian Health

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, over 1.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) living in the United States rely on the Indian Health Service (IHS) access to health care services; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN people have long experienced lower health status when compared with other Americans that include lower life expectancy and a disproportionate disease burden because of inadequate education, disproportionate poverty, discrimination in the delivery of health services, and cultural differences; and

WHEREAS, given the higher health status enjoyed by most Americans, the lingering health disparities of AI/AN people is troubling with the most important factor associated with these health disparities is the inadequate funding for the Indian health care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that funding for Indian health needs in the United States is only provided at 50-60% of its level of need with per capita expenditures for AI/AN people significantly less than other populations served by federal health programs, such as:

- Per capita expenditures for an AI/AN beneficiary served in the IHS is \$1,914 per year;
- Per capita expenditure for a Medicare beneficiary is \$5,915 per year;
- Per capita expenditure for a Medicaid beneficiary is \$3,879 per year;
- Per capita expenditure for a VA beneficiary is \$5,214 per year;
- Per capita expenditure for an inmate in the Bureau of Prisons is \$3,803 per year; and

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Joe A. Garcia
*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

RECORDING SECRETARY
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

TREASURER
gaiashkibos
*Lac Court Oreilles Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa Indians*

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Mike Williams
Yupiaq

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Joe Grayson, Jr.
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Ron His Horse Is Thunder
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST
Robert Chicks
Stockbridge-Munsee

NORTHEAST
Randy Noka
Narragansett

NORTHWEST
Ernie Stensgar
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

PACIFIC
Juana Majel
Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Willie Sharp, Jr.
Blackfeet Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Archie Lynch
Haliwa-Saponi

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Darrell Flyingman
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes

SOUTHWEST
Derek Valdo
Pueblo of Acoma

WESTERN
Alvin Moyle
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, these health and funding disparities have resulted in a health care crisis for Tribal governments and AI/AN people in the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby urge the Congress to declare a State of Emergency for Indian health programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby urge Congress to provide emergency funding to deal with the Indian health care crisis; 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 2008 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona on October 19-24, 2008, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary