



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PDX-20-049

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TITLE: Ensuring Access to Over-the-Counter Contraception for American Indian and Alaska Native Women

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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women deserve body sovereignty and access to birth control, including over-the-counter (OTC) birth control, which is essential to well-being and economic security especially at this period of national economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN women encounter many barriers to accessing OTC birth control including, but not limited to, rural locations with limited providers and provider imposed restrictions;

WHEREAS, AI/AN women are more than 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted or raped than other women in the United States; one in three AI/AN will be raped during their lifetime.; and t least 86% of perpetrators of these crimes are non-Native men; and

WHEREAS, these statistics reveal the need for access to birth control and controlling if and when we have children - free from violence from individuals, or the government and data shows that girls ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN women also carry the generational trauma of some of the most egregious sins committed in the name of medical research and contraceptive development and, as a result, it is time we have access to contraception when we want it, in the environments we deem conducive and without hassle or hurdle; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service provides health services for approximately 2.2 million of the nation’s estimated 3.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to 574 federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, with regards to emergency contraceptives over the counter (EC OTC), AI/AN women were forced to wait five years after the Federal Drug Administration approval of EC OTC to go over the counter at I.H.S. – five years after all other women in the US had access to emergency contraceptives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports AI/AN access to over-the-counter birth control pill that’s affordable, covered by insurance, and provided within the Indian Health system; 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 2020 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held Nov 8, 2020 - Nov 13, 2020, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary