



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-055

Title: Increase Funding for IHS Regional Treatment Centers

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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, many American Indians and Alaskan Natives who receive a diagnosis of diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol levels, cardiovascular disease, alcoholism, obesity consider it a fatal diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, in America, the rate of alcoholism—related death for Indian youth between the ages of 15 of 24 is particularly heart breaking – is over 12 times that of the general population; and for young adults between the ages of 25 and 34, the rate is 13 times that of the general population; and

WHEREAS, frequently in Indian Country, communities experience episodes of “cluster suicides” that are often related to Alcohol and Substance Abuse; and

WHEREAS, these statistics relate to the President’s and the Secretary’s focus on health disparities across the nation. American Indian and Alaska Native alcoholism and substance abuse rates are certainly greater than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health fund services for approximately 400 alcoholism and substance abuse programs throughout Indian Country that provide treatment and prevention services to rural and urban communities. Out of the 130 million dollars out there approximately 90% is managed by Tribes; and

WHEREAS, there are twelve Regional Treatment Centers operated by Indian Tribes and the Indian Health Service today. The United States Congress authorized funds under Public Law 99-570 and Public Law 100-69. In 1986 when the laws were enacted it authorized \$1.2 million dollars per Regional Treatment Center for a total of \$18 million dollars and funds from the Medicaid program account for approximately \$3.6 million dollars resource. With mandatory increases the annual allocation is approximately \$1.5 million. This is insufficient funding; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Treatment Centers require additional staff, equipment, training for alcohol and substance abuse counselor and provider professional development, support for transitioning of clients for pre and post treatment, and the expansion of the treatment facilities.

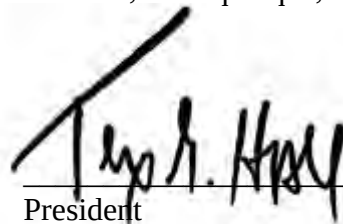
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the IHS and Tribal requests for an increase of funds and facilities to support the Regional Treatment Centers for Native American and Alaskan Native Youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support tribal Indian Health Service requests to increase the annual funding allocation for the Regional Treatment Centers from \$18 million to \$26.4 million.

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 at the 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.