



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MIC-06-001

TITLE: Emergency Resolution to Urge Congress to Exempt the Indian Health Service from Budget Rescissions and Appropriate Funds to Eliminate Outstanding Debts

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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 Indian Health Service's healthcare delivery system is not meeting the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government budgets \$3,803 per prisoner in the Federal prison system, but only \$1,914 per Native American served by the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has adopted in recent years budget rescissions that have resulted in substantial cuts to Indian Health Service funding, even while exempting other Federal healthcare delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service has proposed the reduction this year of services at many facilities including, for example, at the Acoma-Canoncito-Laguna Hospital where the Indian Health Service proposes to eliminate emergency room and ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, many of these reductions and proposed reductions are due to operating deficits that have resulted from Indian Health Service management decisions as well as the imperative to address adequately the health care needs of Native communities; and

WHEREAS, these reductions pose an immediate, grave and growing threat to the health status of many Native communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Congress exempt the Indian Health Service from future budget rescissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Congress make a special appropriation to pay off the outstanding debts at all Indian Health Service facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

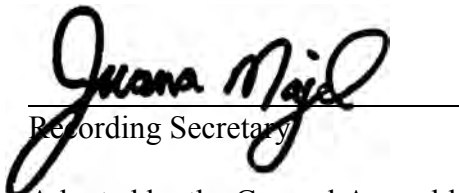
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2006 Mid Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on June 21, 2006 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2006 Mid Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from June 18-21, 2006 at the Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.