



## **2018 Mid-Year Convention Toppenish, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #18 - 29**

**“SUPPORT FOR DIRECT ACCESS OF TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS TO  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)  
STATE TARGETED RESPONSE TO OPIOID CRISIS GRANTS (STR) AND TO REDUCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN IN ACCESSING STR AND OTHER SAMHSA FUNDING”**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2006 to 2012, of the drug overdose deaths, 65.3% (294) of AI/AN deaths were from prescription drugs and of the prescription drug overdose deaths, 77.2% (227) of AI/AN deaths were from opioid overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes are in need of additional resources directly from the federal government to combat the multitude of problems related to the opioid crisis and to address this crisis through a comprehensive approach; and

**WHEREAS**, funding must be available to Tribal Epidemiology Centers for data and surveillance of the opioid crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides funding only to states through State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants (“STR”); and

**WHEREAS**, the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and tribes, as well as the federal trust responsibility and treaty obligations, support direct funding from SAMHSA to tribes and tribal organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes should not be required to go through the state to access federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes request access to STR funding, and other SAMHSA funding, directly from SAMSHA; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes request that all opioid funding available to tribes should ensure equitable distribution of funds to all tribes and reduce the administrative burden on tribes accessing these funds, particularly our smaller tribes with less capacity to apply for and compete with larger tribes; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on Congress to support direct funding to tribes and tribal organizations to address the opioid crisis and direct funding to support surveillance and research by tribes, tribal organizations or Tribal Epidemiology Centers under SAMHSA State Targeted Response to Opioid Crisis Grants (STR) and other SAMHSA funding sources or opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on Congress, and SAMHSA, to ensure that all tribes and tribal organizations have access to STR funding, and other SAMHSA funding sources or opportunities, to address the opioid crisis with consideration of a reduced administrative burden to ensure that there are no barriers for tribes and tribal organizations to access these funds.

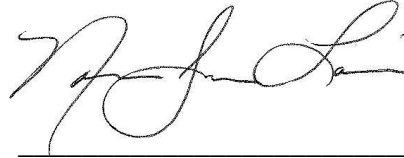
**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2018 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Legends Casino Hotel - Toppenish, Washington, on May 21-24, 2018, with a quorum present.



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Leonard Forsman, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary