



2018 Mid-Year Convention Toppenish, Washington

RESOLUTION #18 - 30

“CALL TO CONGRESS FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MANDATORY FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS (SDPI) AND PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION OF SDPI”

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, AI/AN adults are 2.3 times more likely to have diagnosed diabetes compared with non-Hispanic whites; and

WHEREAS, the death rate due to diabetes for AI/ANs is 1.6 times higher than the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) for “the prevention and treatment of diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) for five years; and

WHEREAS, SDPI has been authorized as mandatory appropriations, creating program stability and insulated it from funding cuts, sequestration or reallocations by the Indian Health Service (IHS); and

WHEREAS, SDPI provides grants for diabetes treatment and prevention services to over 330 IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs in 35 states and funds Community Directed Grant Programs; and

WHEREAS, the SDPI has been incredibly successful in reducing the rates of diabetes in Northwest tribal communities and reducing health complications with End Stage Renal Disease associated with diabetes by 54%; and

WHEREAS, SDPI has had positive clinical and community outcomes, including: the average blood sugar level (A1c) decreased from 9.0% in 1996 to 8.1% in 2010 and has held steady at this improved average for 7 years; the average LDL (“bad” cholesterol) declined from 118 mg/dL in 1998 to 95 mg/dL in 2010; and more than 80% of SDPI grant programs now use recommended public health strategies to provide diabetes prevention activities and serves for AI/AN children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the President’s FY 2019 Budget Proposal for the IHS proposes to move SDPI and other health programs out of mandatory funding and into discretionary funding without a rationale or a path toward sustainable funding; and

WHEREAS, the impact could lessen SDPI as a priority compared to other IHS programs leading to decreased funding and program instability; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports continued mandatory funding for SDPI to uphold the trust responsibility and treaty obligations between the United States and tribes; and

WHEREAS, SDPI was authorized for FY 2018 and FY 2019 under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. No. 115-123) at \$150 million and has not received an increase; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports permanent authorization of SDPI and an increase from \$150 million to \$250 million annually with medical inflation rates thereafter; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress to continue to support mandatory funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress to support permanent authorization of SDPI funding with an increase from \$150 million to \$250 million per year with medical inflation rate increases thereafter.

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.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary