



2020 Virtual Annual Convention

RESOLUTION #20 – 30

“REQUEST FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND TRIBALLY-OPERATED CLINICS IN ALL COVID-19 VACCINE GUIDANCE AND POLICY DOCUMENTS”

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 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 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized tribes are sovereign nations and the United States has a unique legal and political relationship with tribal governments established through and confirmed by the U.S. Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and on March 13, 2020 was declared a national emergency by the President; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) persons are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with many experiencing serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that there may be one or more approved COVID-19 vaccines available on a limited basis in early FY 2021 and an increase in approved vaccines potentially later in the year; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations (CDC Playbook); and

WHEREAS, the CDC Playbook is a key document in the vaccine planning for state and local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Playbook refers to tribes as “organizations,” disrespecting tribal sovereignty and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Playbook does not clearly state that tribally operated clinics and urban Indian health programs will receive vaccine through the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, CDC has historically included tribes in its policy documents when referencing other jurisdictions such as state, local, and territorial governments; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2020, during the Region 10 Tribal Consultation on Vaccine Distribution, tribes were informed that CDC will periodically update the CDC Playbook; and

WHEREAS, tribes request that changes be made to the CDC Playbook and all other CDC guidance and policy documents; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acknowledge tribes as sovereign nations in all COVID-19 vaccine guidance and policy documents, including but not limited to CDC’s COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CDC must clearly state that tribally operated clinics and urban Indian health programs will have access to vaccines from the Indian Health Service.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Virtual Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on October 5 – 8, 2020, with a quorum present.

Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary