



## **2021 Virtual Winter Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 08**

#### **AMEND 38 CFR 14.629 WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE SUPPLEMENT FUNDING TO TRIBES FOR THE TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS**

#### **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 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**, in accordance with Tribes entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA),

WDVA will provide:

1. Veteran Service Officer training

2. Veteran Service Officer accreditation
3. Tracking and reporting of outcomes (ROI)
4. Representation of appeals for VA disability claims at the Seattle VA Regional Office; and

**WHEREAS**, responsibilities of Tribes as outlined in the MOA are:

Tribal Veteran Service Officer:

1. Paid employee of a tribal government working not less than 1000 hours annually
2. Successful completion of training and examination
3. Receives regular supervision and monitoring or annual training; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2017 Title 38, Chapter 1, Part 14, §14.628 was amended to recognize Tribal Governments as being eligible for Veteran Service Office Accreditation; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 38, Part 14 §14.629 outlines the role of the Tribal Veteran Service Officer (TVSO) as stated above; and

**WHEREAS**, while County Veteran Service Offices (CVSO) receive state and/or federal funding, TVSOs funding is solely the responsibility of the Tribe; and

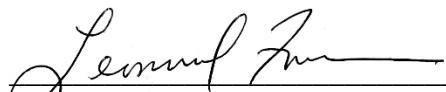
**WHEREAS**, TVSOs serve tribal veterans and non-tribal veterans residing on the reservations and provide the same services and benefits as the WDVA; and

**WHEREAS**, while WDVA provides supplemental funding to CVSOs, TVSOs under the same MOA do not receive the same funding support; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, ATNI requests that the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs amend Title 38, Chapter 1, Part 14, §14.629, to provide equitable funding directly to the tribes.

**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.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary