



## **2021 Virtual Winter Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 17**

#### **“REQUESTS TO FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS TO OFFICIAL TRIBAL VACCINATION RECORD CARD AND URBAN INDIAN HEALTH VACCINATION RECORD CARD”**

### **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**, ATNI acknowledges the need for an Official Tribal Vaccination Record Card and an Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Card in support of COVID-19 and vaccination record needs as recommended by the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) Tribal/Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition (TUIHIC) along with the AIHC TUIHIC Vaccine Hesitancy Task Force; 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**, there are one or more approved COVID-19 vaccines available on a limited basis currently in FY 2021 and an increase in approved vaccines potentially later; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal and urban Indian health facilities have been administering vaccines to their tribal citizens and to American Indians and Alaska Natives from other Tribal Nations, as well as their surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes, as sovereign nations, seek recognition of Tribal Vaccination Record Cards to be accepted in the non-Indian, nationwide health system and federal, state and local jurisdictions; and

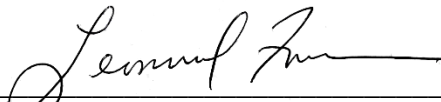
**WHEREAS**, tribes support the recognition of Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards to be accepted in the non-Indian, nationwide health system and federal, state and local jurisdictions.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI requests that federal, state and local governments and their agencies:

- Recognize tribes as sovereign nations uniquely positioned to accurately and timely respond to vaccination records for their tribal citizens and service populations; and
- Recognize Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards as official sources of providing vaccination status; and
- Ensure that that Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards be recognized in vaccine guidance documents or other policies and referenced along with federal, state and local governments; and
- Acknowledge and recognize that the Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Vaccination Record Cards enhance the health and well-being of American Indian/Alaska Natives by providing required documentation with fewer obstacles and barriers for American Indian and Alaska Native participation and to reach as many as possible with lifesaving vaccinations and official records thereof.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on May 24 – May 27, 2021, with a quorum present.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary