



## **2021 Virtual Winter Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 19**

#### **“CALL ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR FY 2022 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE BUDGET”**

### **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**, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has been chronically underfunded as demonstrated by the disparity of federal health care spending of the IHS (\$4,078 per person in FY 2019) compared to federal health care spending nationwide (\$11,582 per person in FY 2019); and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden released the FY 2022 discretionary budget request which includes a 23.5% increase to the Department of Health and Human Services over the 2021 enacted level; and

**WHEREAS**, the President's discretionary budget proposal is intended to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, improve public health infrastructure, and advance equity across the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the President has stated his commitment to Tribal Nations and to fully funding the Indian Health Service (IHS); and

**WHEREAS**, the President's request for IHS FY 2022 budget includes a \$2.2 billion increase over FY 2021 enacted level and a request for advance appropriations; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed \$8.5 billion for IHS in FY 2022 is \$4.2 billion below the FY 2022 National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup Recommendation of \$12.8 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup has requested full funding of IHS at \$48 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has a trust responsibility and treaty obligations to Tribes to fully fund the Indian Health Service to meet the health care and service needs of American Indian and Alaska Natives; and

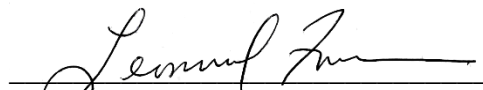
**WHEREAS**, funding IHS in FY 2022 at \$12.8 billion to address the growing health disparities and urgent health care needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people is in fulfillment of the federal government's treaty and trust obligations; now

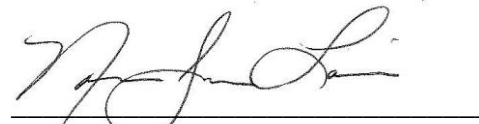
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI recommends that Congress support a \$6.5 billion increase to the IHS FY 2022 budget over FY 2021 enacted level to fund IHS at \$12.8 billion in FY 2022 and move IHS to full funding of \$48 billion; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on Congress to support the President's request for advance appropriations for FY 2023.

### **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.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary