



## **2021 Virtual Winter Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 20**

#### **“SUPPORT FOR TRANS GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE IN IHS, TRIBAL, AND URBAN INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES – 2021 STRATEGIC VISION AND ACTION PLAN”**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the 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 supports the health and wellbeing of all Native people, including those who are Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or another identity (LGBTQ+), and

**WHEREAS**, prior to contact with settlers, many tribal nations across the country and continent had long histories of respect and inclusion of those in their communities who might today identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ+; and

**WHEREAS**, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals disproportionately experience refusal of care, discrimination, and insufficient provider knowledge in healthcare settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals' who fear discrimination or harassment in healthcare settings are more likely to postpone necessary treatment and report lack of access to care; and

**WHEREAS**, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals are important members of their communities who deserve access to appropriate health care in affirming environments; and

**WHEREAS**, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals experience health disparities including increased risk of anxiety, depression, HIV, exposure to violence, and suicidality; and

**WHEREAS**, access to gender-affirming healthcare is critical and lifesaving for transgender individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare settings are uniquely positioned to affirm Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ identities; and

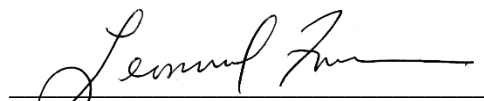
**WHEREAS**, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals thrive in settings which demonstrate respect and inclusion of their identities; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the Trans and Gender-Affirming care in IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health facilities – 2021 Strategic Vision and Action Plan: [https://www.npaihb.org/wp-content/uploads/filebase/Trans-and-Gender-Affirming-Care-2020-Strategic-Vision-and-Action-Plan\\_vClickable-v2.pdf](https://www.npaihb.org/wp-content/uploads/filebase/Trans-and-Gender-Affirming-Care-2020-Strategic-Vision-and-Action-Plan_vClickable-v2.pdf) ; and

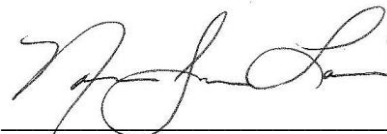
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports advocacy for the continued dissemination of, and implementation of the goals within, the Strategic Vision and Action Plan within the Northwest and throughout Indian Country over the next five years to ensure that our healthcare facilities and communities affirm all sexual orientations and gender identities.

### **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