



2022 Mid-Year Convention Ferndale, Washington

RESOLUTION #2022 – 19

Call on Congress to Support Full Funding for FY 2023 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/AI/AN 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, the federal government has trust and treaty obligations to provide for the health care of AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, because of the chronic underfunding of the IHS, Tribes lack the necessary resources and infrastructure to appropriately respond and provide essential healthcare to their citizens and AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, many of our member Tribes face significant challenges in recruiting health professionals to work in their communities that results in a serious deficiency in healthcare providers for AI/AN people and exacerbating health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup's recommendation in FY 2023 for funding to IHS is \$49.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, President Biden released the FY 2023 Proposed Budget which includes a request for mandatory funding for IHS in FY 2023 at \$9.3 billion that would grow to \$36.7 billion by FY 2032; and

WHEREAS, this request is a step in the right direction towards full funding of the IHS, but needs significant revisions for the mandatory 10-year funding legislative request; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2023 Budget Request includes \$165 million in nonrecurring expense funds for the Portland Area's regional specialty referral center; and

WHEREAS, the Portland Area regional specialty referral center is a priority of the Northwest Tribes to address the continual barriers American Indian and Alaska Native people face in accessing specialty care in the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) grows providers from within tribal communities that provides patient-centered quality care that comes from providers that understand the history, culture, and language of their patients; and

WHEREAS, national expansion of CHAP is a priority of the Northwest Tribes to address social determinants of health and the continual barriers American Indian and Alaska Native people face in accessing primary care in the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, IHS has not provided adequate funding to expand CHAP nationally to support education programs and member tribes to integrate CHAP providers into their health programs; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress to support full funding for IHS at \$49.8 billion, including fully funding Purchased/Referred Care at \$6 billion, Mental Health at \$4 billion, and Alcohol and Substance Abuse at \$3 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress and IHS to work with Tribal Nations to put forward an appropriate legislative proposal for mandatory funding for IHS that is separate from the President's Budget Proposal for FY 2023; and

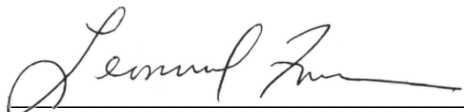
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the \$165 million in nonrecurring expense funds to construct the Portland Area Regional Specialty Referral Center and requests that Congress and IHS provides additional funding for a staffing package for the referral center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges \$60 million for continuation of the national expansion of CHAP with \$10 million for Portland Area, \$4.2 million for the Dental therapy education program with a \$1.7 million earmark for Portland Area and \$2.5 million to support Alaska, and an additional \$5 million to build clinical classrooms to train community health aide providers in the Portland Area; and

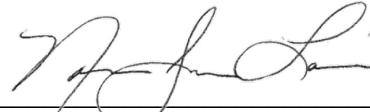
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to NCAI and NIHB for support.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2022 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Silver Reef Casino Resort, Ferndale, Washington, on May 16-19, 2022, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary