



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION #2023 – 26

“Call on Congress to Support Northwest Tribal Funding Requests for FY 2024”

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, the federal government has trust and treaty obligations to provide for the health care of AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, AI/ANs in the Northwest experience significant health disparities, including a life expectancy that is about 7 years lower than that of non-Hispanic whites and are particularly vulnerable to heart disease, diabetes, injuries, violence, substance misuse and overdoses; and

WHEREAS, these health disparities are in part due to the chronic underfunding the Indian health care system; and

WHEREAS, in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Congress included a \$327 million increase for the IHS and provided advanced appropriations for FY 2024—a momentous step forward to fulfill the federal government’s trust and treaty obligations; and

WHEREAS, the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup recommends funding for IHS at \$51.4 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024; and

WHEREAS, President Biden requests an additional \$2.5 billion in FY 2024 which includes \$8.1 billion in discretionary funding and \$1.6 billion in mandatory funding for Contract Support Costs (CSC), Section 105(l) leases, and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI); and

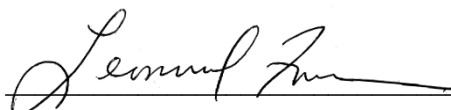
WHEREAS, the House is considering a funding cap for FY 2024 discretionary funding at FY 2022 levels that could have devastating impacts on IHS and Tribal health programs, in particular the Hospitals and Health Clinics line item that received an additional \$100 million increase in FY 2023; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI recommends that Congress supports the mandatory funding proposal for IHS in FY 2024 and full funding for IHS at \$51.4 billion; and

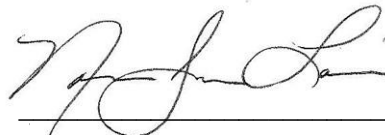
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon Congress to increase –not cut— IHS funding to fulfill treaty and trust obligations to provide healthcare services to AI/AN people.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Midyear Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort Hotel in Worley, Idaho, on May 8-11, 2023, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary