



2023 Annual Convention Grand Mound, Washington

RESOLUTION #23 – 46

“SUPPORT FOR FAIR AND PROPORTIONAL FACILITIES SUPPORT ACCOUNT (FSA) RESOURCES FOR TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS”

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 United States (U.S.) has a unique and special relationship with AI/ANs to provide health care as established through the U.S. Constitution, treaties, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, this relationship, known as the Federal Trust Responsibility, is the result of the millions of acres of land and extensive resources ceded to the United States—oftentimes by force— in exchange for which it is legally and morally obligated to provide benefits and services in perpetuity, as well as uphold Tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act authorizes the Federal government to provide funding and services to Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide services that the Federal government would otherwise be obligated to provide due to the trust and treaty obligations of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) withholds, or significantly limits, certain resources provided to Tribally operated 638 health programs; and

WHEREAS, these resources are retained for the use of IHS facilities but may also benefit Tribal communities in the Areas where they are provided; and

WHEREAS, among the resources withheld from Tribal health programs is funding from the Facilities Support Account (FSA); and

WHEREAS, according to the IHS Facilities Appropriation Information Report, FSA staff responsibilities include facilities related management activities, operation and maintenance of real property, clinical engineering and medical equipment technical support, and planning and construction management support for new and replacement health facilities projects; and

WHEREAS, the IHS Areas that have no or too few IHS facilities, such as the California and Portland Areas, receive disproportionally fewer FSA resources than other Areas; and

WHEREAS, the severe scarcity of FSA staff in these Areas leads to the needs and deficiencies of many Tribal communities going unacknowledged and underreported; and

WHEREAS, Tribes in these Areas do not have the necessary level of Area-wide staff resources available to collect data and report to the IHS for resource distribution which positions some Tribal communities at a severe disadvantage and leads to worse health outcomes; now

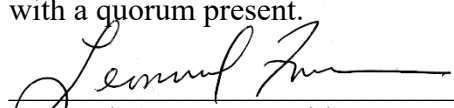
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports fair and proportionate Facilities Support Account funding for all IHS Areas regardless of the absence of IHS facilities; and

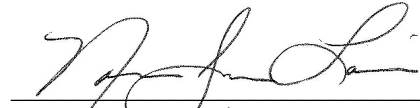
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the IHS and Congress to address this issue immediately with new and additional funding to protect current Area FSA budgets; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA, September 18-21, 2023 with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary