



## **ATNI Midyear 2025 Convention Airway Heights, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION # 2025 – 22**

#### **“PROTECTING MEDICAID SERVICES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES”**

##### **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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments 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**, Congress is focused on the budget reconciliation process for FY 2025 and proposed Medicaid reform initiatives could result in significant reductions in services to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Medicaid beneficiaries in the Northwest; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid is rooted in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) (P.L. 94-437, 25 U.S.C. § 1601) which recognizes the Federal Trust responsibility for the provision of health care services to AI/AN people; and

**WHEREAS**, IHCIA also provides the authorization for Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs) to bill Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, IHCIA amends section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act to provide 100% Federal Medical Assistance Payment (FMAP) for eligible AI/AN people receiving services through Indian Health Service (IHS) or Tribally-operated facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Tribal Nations rely on Medicaid funding to meet their Tribal community's health care needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Annual discretionary appropriations for IHS are significantly underfunded and consistently fall short of addressing the needs of AI/AN people; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid provides the Indian health system with funding for basic health care services to AI/AN people, supplements IHS annual appropriations, and allows Tribally-operated facilities to increase services; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 40 years, the Federal government has reimbursed States 100% FMAP or the cost of providing Medicaid services to AI/AN beneficiaries under the Federal government's Trust responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing 100% FMAP for services received through IHS or Tribally operated facilities will shift the cost of Medicaid services to AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries to state coffers, a violation of the Federal Trust responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, any Medicaid reform efforts that would reduce services or eligibility for AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries would be devastating to Northwest Tribal Nations and the Indian health care system; now

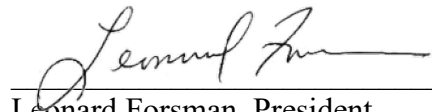
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on Congress to ensure that any reforms to Medicaid not impact services provided to American Indian/Alaska Native Medicaid beneficiaries by:

- preserving 100% Federal Medical Assistance Payment (FMAP) for services received through Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribally-operated facilities;
- exempting IHS federally-operated facilities, Tribally-operated facilities, and urban Indian programs from State-based per capita spending caps, block grants, or similar funding structures;
- exempting AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries from work requirements; and
- requesting the option to carve out continuation of Medicaid expansion in states; and

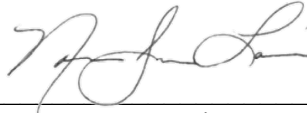
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Midyear Convention held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Airway Heights Washington on May 11-15, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary