



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

**RESOLUTION # 2025 – 23**

**“PULLING TOGETHER FOR WELLNESS FRAMEWORK”**

**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**, in Washington State, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people experience a higher burden of chronic disease, mortality and other health disparities than the State’s non-AI/AN population; and

**WHEREAS**, the life expectancy of AI/AN is shorter than other populations and has only worsened in the last 20 years even with the initiation of the Affordable Care Act and similar

policies that expand access to health care and support the trust responsibility of the federal government; and

**WHEREAS**, the existence of these disparities is the direct result of historical trauma related to colonization, federal and state policies continually prioritizing land and resource acquisition over the lives of AI/AN populations, limited fulfillment of treaty rights including chronic underfunding of health care and public health services for AI/AN, discrimination and racism, limited understanding of Tribal sovereignty and ongoing institutional barriers; and

**WHEREAS**, based on Tribal and Urban Indian knowledge, experience, and philosophy, a misalignment of vision and values exist in state and federal policy resulting in development of ineffective interventions, policies, and practices that leads to harmful outcomes, and decreased trust which perpetuates the existing health disparities among AI/AN people; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Indian Health Commission developed the Pulling Together for Wellness (PTW) framework, a comprehensive, tribally-driven, culturally-grounded, and evidence informed prevention framework, developed through the guidance of the Tribal and Urban Indian Leadership Advisory Council (PTW-LAC); and

**WHEREAS**, at the heart of the PTW framework is a profound respect for cultural context and *Native Ways of Knowing* as the model recognizes that true health and wellness cannot be achieved without honoring the traditions, values, and experiences of AI/AN people, as our way of life, which contributes to long term sustainability and social change; and

**WHEREAS**, central to the PTW framework is the concept of holistic health, symbolized by the medicine wheel, a reminder that our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health are all inwoven in culture as central to all parts of personal, community, and environmental wellness. It's a visual representation of the framework's commitment to nurturing and healing the whole person: heart, mind, body, and soul; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of the PTW framework was a collaborative effort, bringing together the voices and inspirations of elders, youth, community members, Tribal and Urban Indian students, program staff, and public health specialists; and

**WHEREAS**, the PTW framework values the balance of Native and Western science by raising the significance of Native epistemology “ways of knowing” and practice-based knowledge, along with best practices, evidence-based practice, and promising practices in its processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the framework embraces the *Seven Generation Principle* as defined by a Tribal Elder/Ancestor: We honor the Seven Generation Principle as standing in the present, while looking back three generations to the wisdom and experiences of our ancestors, thinking about issues in the current context and the strength of our ancestors, while planning forward for three generations for the protection of our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and the generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the PTW framework acknowledges the impact of historical trauma and adverse childhood experiences on the health and well-being of AI/AN people by introducing the crucial concept of "Generational Clarity," which includes the importance of both our stories being central to healing our hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits from the effects of injustices experienced from historical trauma, ongoing racism, and discrimination, as well as the importance of cultural narratives, practices, traditions; stories that inspire reflection and renewed understanding of our inherent strengths and resilience that have sustained us since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, the PTW framework includes the development of cross-sector partnerships, beyond the traditional healthcare system, as critical to a (PSE) change approach, acknowledging critical partnerships are important to build capacity and momentum for broad based change; and

**WHEREAS**, developing capacity includes partners' understanding of Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination is an important foundation to establishing effective partnerships as is having knowledge of the history of the Tribe(s) and Indian Communities in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the PTW framework includes tools and training that can be adapted to meet the needs of specific Tribal and Urban Indian Communities, and includes 21 competencies areas for development of workforce and community to strengthen capacity within Tribes and Urban Indian systems, structures and communities to create and sustain Healthy Tribal and Urban Indian Communities beyond administrations to serve for generations using a Policy, System, and Environmental (PSE) change approach; and

**WHEREAS**, the PTW framework could be used by Tribal Nations as a model to address health disparities in tribal communities and incorporated into a Section 1115 demonstration waiver in the Northwest; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 1115 of the Social Security Act gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that are found by the Secretary to be likely to assist in promoting the objectives of the Medicaid program; now

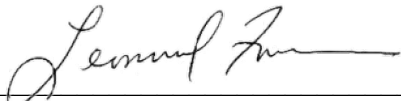
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the Pulling Together for Wellness Framework as a model for Tribal Nations, urban Indian programs and organizations to address health disparities within their communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on the States within Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indian's region to collaborate with Tribal Nations, urban Indian programs and organizations to incorporate the Pulling Together for Wellness Framework into Section 1115 demonstration waivers; 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.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary