



ATNI Annual 2025 Convention Suquamish, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 43

“PROTECTING THE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATE TO INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND TRIBALLY-OPERATED FACILITIES”

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, annual discretionary appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) are significantly underfunded and consistently fall short of addressing the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursements to IHS and Tribally-operated facilities is rooted in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), which recognizes the Federal Trust responsibility for the provision of health care services to AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursements provide IHS and Tribally-operated facilities with funding for basic health care services to AI/AN people, supplements IHS annual appropriations, and allows Tribally-operated facilities to increase services to AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations, as sovereign nations, determine their service population or beneficiaries eligible for services at their Tribally-operated facilities which may include services to other populations within the community; and

WHEREAS, Tribally-operated facilities are often located in rural areas so many Tribally-operated facilities become critical to the health and well-being of Medicaid beneficiaries in the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Indian Health Service annually approves the rates for inpatient and outpatient medical care (also known as the All Inclusive Rate) provided by IHS or Tribally-operated facilities for Medicaid beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, States pay the inpatient and outpatient rate to IHS and Tribally-operated facilities for services to their Medicaid beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, the Federal government has reimbursed States 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) or the cost of providing Medicaid services to AI/AN beneficiaries under the Federal government's Trust responsibility provided that services are received through an IHS or Tribally-operated facility; and

WHEREAS, some States are facing budget shortfalls and attempting to reduce Medicaid reimbursements to Tribally-operated facilities; and

WHEREAS, any effort or initiative to reduce Medicaid reimbursements to a Tribally operated facility will shift the cost of health care to Tribal Nations, a violation of the Federal Trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS, any reductions to Medicaid reimbursements to IHS and/or Tribally-operated facilities would be devastating to Northwest Tribal Nations, AI/AN beneficiaries, and the Indian health care system; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services and States to honor the Trust responsibility [and Treaty obligation] to Tribal Nations by ensuring that Federal and State budget shortfalls are not shifted to Tribal Nations through any policy changes or initiatives that would reduce Medicaid reimbursements to Indian Health Service and/or Tribally-operated facilities; and

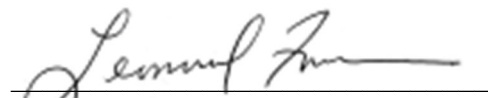
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI demands that the States of Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington conduct tribal consultations on any proposed Medicaid policy changes; and

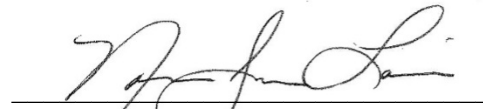
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians calls on the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and States to honor the Congressional intent of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve access and quality of care to American Indian and Alaska Native beneficiaries which is supported by Medicaid reimbursements at the rates set forth in the Federal Register annually; and

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary