



**2026 Midyear Convention
Ferndale, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 024

**“CALL TO CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT SUPPORTS
REIMBURSEMENT TO TRIBAL NATIONS WHO HAVE PURCHASED
COMMERCIAL OFF-THE-SHELF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD
SYSTEMS AND FOR ONGOING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS”**

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, 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, the United States maintains a trust and treaty responsibility to provide health care to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people through the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its other agencies; and

WHEREAS, appropriations for the IHS budget have been chronically underfunded annually, which impacts the health care status of AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, the IHS is currently operating an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system that is over 42 years old, namely the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS); and

WHEREAS, the IHS embarked upon an EHR modernization project Patients at The Heart Electronic Health Record (PATH EHR) in 2020 for which Congress has appropriated over \$1.2 billion through Fiscal Year 2026, for which the overall anticipated financial need is over \$6.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, less than 20% of Tribes nationally have submitted letters of interest in moving to PATH EHR, Portland Area Tribes believe PATH EHR is an agency-focused project, and have lost confidence in the ability of the IHS to successfully complete the implementation of PATH EHR; and

WHEREAS, over thirty (30) IHS Portland Area Tribes have initiated or completed the migration from the RPMS EHR system to a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) EHR system at their own expense because they recognize a modern EHR system is integral to patient care; and

WHEREAS, IHS Portland Area Tribes also recognize that the availability of a reliable EHR, and the effective use of technology to meet modern challenges in health care delivery play a significant role in patient care and in ensuring a resilient workforce; and

WHEREAS, IHS Portland Area Tribes have invested time, energy, talent, and millions of dollars in the implementation and ongoing operation of COTS EHR systems; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations across Indian Country are not provided with any funding through their Annual Funding Agreements (AFA) or Funding Agreements (FA) to support COTS EHR purchase, implementation, and ongoing maintenance and operations; and

WHEREAS, IHS Portland Area Tribes operating COTS EHR systems are under no statutory or contractual requirement to participate in the PATH EHR system as developed by the HIS, and IHS must make Tribal Shares available to Tribal Nations through their AFAs or FAs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress to enact legislation through Tribal input/consultation that (1) authorizes and appropriates funding to reimburse, including retroactive reimbursement, to Tribal Nations who have purchased COTS Electric EHR systems for their Tribal Health Programs, including the associated maintenance and operational costs; and (2) authorizes and appropriates annual funding to support COTS EHR maintenance or operational costs through Tribal shares in Tribal Nations' AFA or FA; and

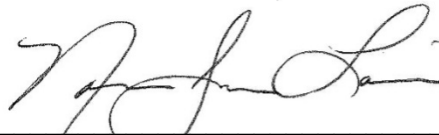
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Midyear Convention held at the Silver Reef Casino Resort in Ferndale, Washington, on May 17-21, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary