



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 - 10

"SUPPORT \$480 MILLION INCREASE FOR THE IHS BUDGET AND RESTORE FUNDING FOR URBAN INDIAN 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 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, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2008 budget request for the Indian Health Service (IHS) budget includes an increase of \$212 million over the funding level contained in the current Continuing Resolution that funds government operations through February 15, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the proposed increase for IHS programs comes at the expense of cutting services to the Urban Indian Health Program and some of the facilities accounts, does not provide enough funding to adequately fund inflation and population growth, and does not provide funding to address the continuing contract support cost shortfall of IHS programs administered by tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) preliminary estimates indicate that it will take at least \$480 million (\$65 million for Contract Health Services

inflation, \$207 million in additional health service account inflation, \$150 million for unfunded Contract Support Costs, and \$59 million for population growth) to fund mandatory costs in FY 2008; and

WHEREAS, after restoring current services costs of \$118 million in lost funding to the FY 2007 budget base, the President's FY 2008 request for the IHS budget will fall short by \$380 million to maintain current services for Indian health programs; and

WHEREAS, in recent year's funding provided to the IHS for health care for Indian people has been inadequate to meet cost increases associated with inflation and population growth; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution is based on the final enacted FY 2006 IHS budget that included two rescissions that resulted in a \$45 million loss to the IHS base budget that continues to have a negative impact on the development of the IHS budget since the cuts can never be restored; and

WHEREAS, and Congress' continued practice to use rescissions to comply with spending caps has had a detrimental effect on the ability of IHS programs to provide health services to Indian people who suffer the worse health disparities in this country and it is unjust to make future budget projections on such a significantly eroded funding base; now

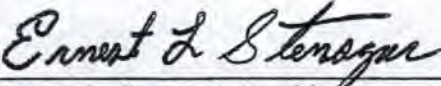
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby recommends and supports a \$480 million increase for the Indian Health Service to fairly reflect mandatory costs increases and provide necessary funding to reduce health disparities and to restore unfunded mandatory costs from previous years; and

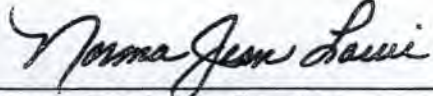
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ATNI hereby requests Congress to exempt the IHS budget from future across the board rescissions—on the same basis as Veteran's health programs—since they experience the same medical inflation and affect the ability of the IHS health programs to provide health services to Indian people; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby requests Congress to restore the funding to urban Indian health programs since it is not consistent with the IHS budget formulation and Tribal consultation and this restoration should not be offset against other IHS health service accounts.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Holiday Inn Airport Hotel in Portland, Oregon on February 15, 2007, with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary