



## Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

### **2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington**

#### **RESOLUTION #08 - 20**

#### **“SUPPORT FOR THE INCREASE IN DENTAL SERVICE FUNDING IN THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE BUDGET”**

### **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 American Indian/Alaska Native populations are faced with the greatest prevalence of oral health disease of any population; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 1999 Oral Health survey administered by the Indian Health Service indicate:

- 79% of children aged 2-4 years had a history of dental decay, and
- 68% of adults and 61% of elders had untreated dental decay, and
- 59% of adults 35-44 years and 61% of elders have periodontal (gum) disease
- 78% of adults 35-44 years and 98% of elders (55 or older) have at least one tooth removed because of decay, trauma, or gum disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of providers identified in the 1999 Oral Health Report stated an average of 2,800 patients per dentist in American Indian/Alaskan Native communities compared to 1,500 patients in the general population; and

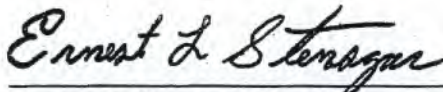
**WHEREAS**, according to the most recent oral health survey in the 1999 report, also calculated the per capita spending for American Indian/Alaskan Native on oral health at \$50 per patient per year compared to \$300 for the general population; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians supports increasing the budget for dental services for American Indian/Alaska Natives to be comparable to the per capita spending of the general population; and

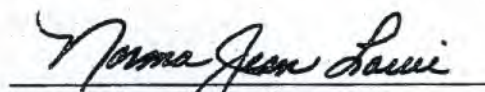
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports increasing all efforts to expand the dental provider workforce, including, but not limited to: loan repayment programs, enhancing scholarships for American Indian/Alaskan Native students for dental education, and increased training of mid-level practitioner utilization.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary