

# **2009 Winter Conference Tulalip, Washington**

## **RESOLUTION #09- 09**

### **"RECOMMENDATION FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA TO REAFFIRM EXECUTIVE ORDER 13175 AND CONSULT WITH TRIBES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH REFORM PROPOSALS"**

## **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**, ATNI 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 ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, under President Bush administration, key decisions made by Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) personnel have reversed long-standing federal Indian policy and have had a direct effect on the ability of Indian health programs to access Medicaid, Medicare, and SCHIP resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a federal trust responsibility for Indian people established by treaties, executive orders, legislation, and court decisions and this obligation extends to the provision of health care services to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, Congress amended the Social Security Act to authorize Medicare and Medicaid payments to Indian health programs and in doing so, Congress provided this authority to enable AI/ANs *full access* to Medicare and Medicaid benefits in health programs operated by the IHS and Tribes, to enhance the quality of care provided, and to improve the substandard conditions of Indian health facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Administration during the Presidential campaign announced a comprehensive health care reform proposal to deal with the rising health care costs, the millions of uninsured, the lack of available funding for prevention and public health programs, and the poor ranking of health care quality; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that Tribes be consulted in any type of health care reform or changes that will impact Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs in order to protect the complex and under funded network of health providers that make up the Indian health system; and

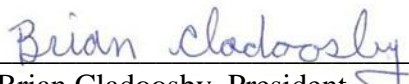
**WHEREAS**, previous Presidential Administrations have established and affirmed Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments"; and


**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urges President Obama to reaffirm his administration's support for Executive Order 13175; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ATNI urges the President and the Congress to consult with Tribes in the development of any health reform recommendations and changes in the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Tulalip Resort & Casino, Tulalip, Washington on February 19, 2009 with a quorum present.

  
Brian Cladoosby, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary