



2009 Fall Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 72

"SUPPORT TO REAUTHORIZE THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT"

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 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, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) along with the Snyder Act serve as the policy foundation for the provision of health services and programs provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS), tribes, and urban programs; and

WHEREAS, Indian Country has been working on the reauthorization of the IHCIA for over ten years and Congress has not reauthorized the Act since 1999; and

WHEREAS, a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprised of tribal leaders from each of the 12 IHS Areas and urban programs has been organized to work on the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and the NSC has worked closely with congressional committees and congressional staff members to develop legislative language for the IHCIA that will enhance and protect the IHS delivery system so that it may more fully meet the needs of American Indian and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Pallone has introduced into the 111th Congress of the United States H.R. 2708 for the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act on June 12, 2009, which contains important new provisions which will improve health care for Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the US Senate through the leadership of Senator Byron Dorgan was successful in the 110th Congress in securing floor passage of S. 1200 reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act but the bill died at the close of Congress for lack of action in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 and again in 2007 meeting in joint session California Rural Indian Health Board and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board jointly passed a resolution urging the passage of the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and Congress has yet to achieve that goal; now

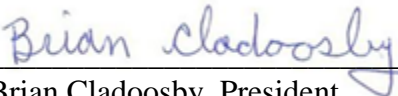
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports H.R. 2708 providing it does not regress from current law provisions contained in P.L. 94-437 and advance modernizations of the Indian health care system and will work collaboratively to secure the final passage of these bills during this session of Congress, to implement these provisions administratively and to fund these provisions in subsequent fiscal years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at its next annual meeting; and

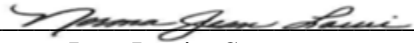
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly urge Congress to reauthorize the IHCIA in this 111th Congressional session.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center in Tacoma, Washington on September 21 - 24, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary