2012 Fall Annual Convention
Pendleton, OR

RESOLUTION #12- 48

"SUPPORT DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST AND ADVANCED DENTAL THERAPISTS EDUCATIONAL AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS"

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, Executive Orders, 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 to 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/Alaska Natives and tribes 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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the ATNI supports activities designed to prevent and reduce adverse health conditions and health disparities in Native American communities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Indian Health Service (IHS) Community Health Aide Program Certification Board developed the Dental Health Aide Therapist Program as an expansion of the well-established Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) to address the unmet dental care needs for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, dental therapists work under the general supervision of a dentist, performing cleanings, fillings, and simple extractions and present a tremendous opportunity for addressing the unmet dental care needs in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act requires that Dental Health Aide Therapists may operate outside of Alaska only where similar midlevel dental providers are authorized by state law; and

WHEREAS, ATNI adopted Resolution No. 11-58 to support and approve such legislation creating a licensing program for Dental Health Aide Therapists and Advanced Dental Therapists to improve access to dental services and the health of rural, tribal and underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, such legislation sets minimum educational requirements and limitations on the types of services that may be performed by midlevel dental health providers; and

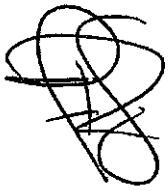
WHEREAS, in order for such midlevel dental providers to effectively address the dental care needs of Indian communities, the educational and scope of practice requirements should be based on the successful Alaska model, which follows closely international models. The Alaska model requires two years with approximately 3,000 hours of extremely comprehensive classroom and clinical training, followed by a 3- to 6-month preceptorship, in which they work side-by-side with a supervising dentist; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly recommends that any state legislation to establish midlevel dental providers must allow similar educational and scope of practice requirements that exist in the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist and Advanced Dental Therapist model; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI recognizes that such legislation can be accomplished by limiting such requirements to federal programs authorized under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Oregon September 24-27, 2012 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary