



2013 Winter Convention Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #13 – 04

“SUPPORT FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EFFORT FOR PSYCHIATRY IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES”

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, Native population groups experience high rates of mental illness, such as depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, suicide rates among Natives are more than twice that of any other race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, chronic homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse, stress, and trauma have all been identified as principal causes of mental illness in Indian country, and despite efforts at addressing these causes, mental illness among Natives remains a serious condition; and

WHEREAS, Native population groups continue to face significant challenges in accessing high quality healthcare, and one barrier to providing proper mental health care to Natives is the shortage of psychiatric physicians; and

WHEREAS, the proposed “Native American Psychiatric and Mental Health Care Improvement Act” would build upon groundwork already being laid by organizations such as the One Sky National Native Health, Education & Research Center located at the Oregon Health & Science University; and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation would establish a demonstration project to develop a sustainable model for recruiting, training, deploying, and professionally supporting psychiatric physicians in Indian country; and

WHEREAS, the Siletz Tribal Council recognizes the seriousness of addressing mental health issues and adopted Resolution 2012-336 on October 19, 2012 to support for the Legislative Effort for Psychiatry in Native Communities; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians Health Commission, the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, and the National Council on Urban Indian Health in addition to various Offices at Oregon Health & Science University have expressed letters of support for this Legislative effort; and

WHEREAS, the Siletz Tribal Council in addition to above mentioned tribes, tribal organizations, and interested stakeholders supports the efforts of the One Sky Center and the American Psychiatric Association to improve psychiatric services to Native Americans; now

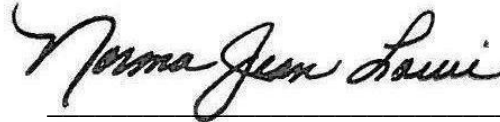
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support endorsing the legislative proposal from the American Psychiatric Association and the One Sky Center to facilitate long-term stability of the psychiatric physician workforce serving Indian County.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, on January 28 – 31, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary