



2013 Annual Convention Worley, ID

RESOLUTION #13 – 75

“IN SUPPORT OF DATA-BASED RESOURCE ALLOCATION”

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 current US Congress is gridlocked and has acquiesced to the implementation of significant reductions in funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS) through a sequestration policy that if continued over several appropriations cycles will destroy the Indian Health Service as a viable provider of health care services; and

WHEREAS, at best, over the foreseeable future, the IHS appropriations will continue to grow at a rate that continues to be less than the amount necessary to achieve sustained improvements in access and availability to high quality health care services necessary to elevate the health status of all American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest possible level; and

WHEREAS, under current IHS policy, large portions of all new clinical services funds are targeted to meet the expanded staffing needs of those operating units that have an active user population large enough to attract facilities construction funds thereby consistently marginalizing and reducing the availability of funds to the rest of the IHS funded health care system thereby perpetuating certain inequity; and

WHEREAS, for the past thirty-three years the IHS has been unwilling or unable to devise and fund a resource allocation methodology that is reasonable, rational and defensible and that results in funding equity and equal access to services across all segments of the IHS funded delivery system thereby perpetuating great disparities in funding from provider site to provider site; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act will expand coverage for many American Indians and Alaska Natives through both Medicaid and the new subsidized health coverage through the "Market Place" systems; and

WHEREAS, some Congressional leaders may falsely assume that these new coverage opportunities will alleviate the need for vigorous funding for the Indian Health Service in spite of the fact that these forms of coverage will not be uniformly available throughout Indian country, thereby adding not only new resources but new complexity to the diversity of funding which currently exists; now

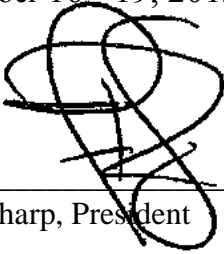
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request that the IHS develop an updated resource allocation methodology to identify and address the multiple inputs which provided support in the provision of personal health care services to the IHS service population including IHS funds, available Medicaid resources, available Medicare resources and newly emerging resources provided through the new Market Place systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IHS is urged to update this methodology using the best available data on an annual basis and where necessary to invest in the development of new data sets necessary for the proper administration of this methodology; and

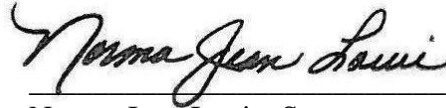
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all annual increases to the IHS Appropriation provided by Congress for Clinical Services, not earmarked for specific new facilities, shall be distributed through a single resource allocation methodology as generally described above.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Coeur d'Alene Resort Hotel & Casino, Worley, Idaho on September 16 - 19, 2013, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary