



2016 Mid-Year Convention Grand Ronde, Oregon

RESOLUTION #16 – 26

“PORTLAND AREA COULD BE TREATED AS A STATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY 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, 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, in accordance with the definitions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 USCS § 450b, a tribal organization is recognized as a governing body of any Indian tribe and includes any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected

by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the ATNI is to improve the health and quality of life of its member Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the States of Idaho, Oregon and Washington have moved or are moving towards using managed care organizations (MCO) for the provision of health and/or behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, many issues have arisen for our member Tribes under MCOs, including the lack of Tribal consultation by the states as required under federal and/or state law, even when Fee For Service (FFS) is available; and

WHEREAS, enrollment of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in Medicaid for the Portland Area in 2014 was 343,675 –36,797 in Idaho, 110,852 in Oregon, and 196,026 in Washington; and

WHEREAS, the number of eligible AI/AN is significantly higher than 343,675 particularly given that not all eligible AI/AN are enrolled in Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Oregon and Washington expanded Medicaid and individuals are eligible at 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and Idaho did not expand Medicaid and has a lower FPL of 27% for its Medicaid program which leaves many AI/AN without health coverage in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Health and Human Services was authorized to conduct a Navajo Nation Medicaid Agency Feasibility Study under 25 U.S.C. 1647d and a report was issued to Congress titled, “Report to Congress on the Feasibility of a Navajo Nation Medicaid Agency” in May 2014; and

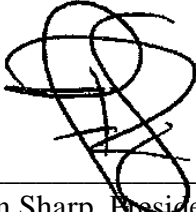
WHEREAS, the ATNI’s member Tribes have been leaders in self-determination programs and in cutting edge health programs; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI member Tribes would like to further self-determination by exploring how the Portland Area could be treated as a State for the purposes of Title XIX of the Social Security Act; now

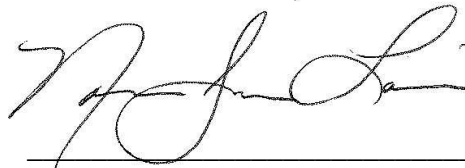
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATNI supports the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board to research and/or explore conducting a feasibility study to determine if the Portland Area can be treated as a State for the purposes of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, to provide services to AI/AN living within the boundaries of the Portland Area through an entity established having the same authority and performing the same functions as a single-State Medicaid agency responsible for the administration of the State plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2016 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Spirit Mountain Casino, Grand Ronde, Oregon on May 23-26, 2016, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary