



2017 Annual Convention Spokane, WA

RESOLUTION #17 – 56

“SUPPORT FOR HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION”

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 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) are disproportionately affected by hepatitis C virus (HCV) and have both the highest rate of acute HCV infection and the highest HCV-related mortality rate of any United States racial/ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, the AI/AN HCV-related mortality rate in California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington is over three times that of non-Hispanic whites and this disparity has persisted over time, demonstrating the need for enhanced and expanded HCV screening, prevention, testing and linkage to care services; and

WHEREAS, medical options for individuals with HCV have vastly improved and new medications have high rates of achieving sustained virologic response; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports capacity building among primary care clinics, ensuring there are affordable HCV treatments, and ensuring the availability of necessary supportive services for all AI/ANs living with HCV infection; and

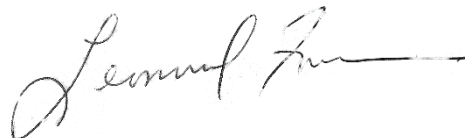
WHEREAS, ATNI supports enhancing HCV surveillance among member tribes, and setting and tracking HCV elimination targets; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI endorses this initiative to eliminate HCV among AI/ANs and supports:

- Enhancing HCV prevention, testing and linkage to care services for people who inject drugs, people who are incarcerated, men who have sex with men, and other populations disproportionately impacted by HCV infection;
- Expanding HCV screening to identify people living with HCV who are unaware of their status and link them to care;
- Providing access to HCV treatment without restrictions, and ensure the availability of necessary supportive services for all American Indian and Alaska Native people living with HCV infection;
- Enhancing HCV research, surveillance, set and track HCV elimination targets; and
- Enhancing commitment of tribal and elected officials, public health professionals, HCV experts, and partners to provide leadership and to develop a plan to eliminate HCV alongside community members living with and affected by HCV.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, Washington on September 18-21, 2017 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary