



**2017 Annual Conference
Spokane, WA**

RESOLUTION #17 – 59

**“SUPPORT FOR ADOPTION OF “CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL
GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN”
BY INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES
AND TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS”**

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 (AI/AN) 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, opioid prescriptions have risen dramatically over the past 15 to 20 years and the annual incidence of opioid overdoses and deaths have also risen nationally; and

WHEREAS, people in rural counties are nearly twice as likely to overdose on prescription painkillers as people in big cities and many Tribal communities are located in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN people are more likely to overdose on prescription painkillers; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN people in the Northwest (Oregon, Idaho, and Washington) are two times more likely to fatally overdose on prescription painkillers compared to non-Hispanic Whites in the region; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Health Department has identified that some of the highest rates of opioid overdose in the United States are in Northern California, with some counties' opioid prescription death rates 2 - 3 times higher than the national average; and

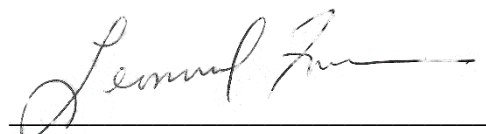
WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed and published the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>, to provide recommendations for the prescribing of opioid pain medication for patients 18 and older in primary care settings; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain by Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health Organizations in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska would improve how opioids are prescribed to AI/AN patients; and ensure that AI/AN patients have access to safer, more effective chronic pain treatment, while reducing the number of AI/AN people who abuse or overdose from these drugs; now

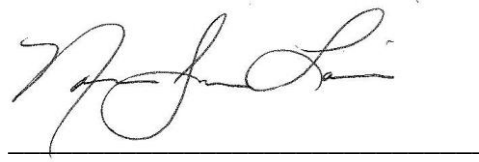
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in the absence of any tribal-specific policy to reduce opioid addiction, overdose and death of AI/AN people, the ATNI supports adoption of the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, *available at* <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>, by Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Organizations to reduce opioid addiction, overdose and death of AI/AN people.

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