



**2017 Annual Convention
Spokane, WA**

RESOLUTION #17 – 60

“SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION AMENDING TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT FOR ADULT INPATIENT TREATMENT AND GRANT FUNDING FOR AI/AN YOUTH ADDICTION TREATMENT FACILITIES’ INFRASTRUCTURE”

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, mental health and substance abuse disparities in the AI/AN population are well-documented; and

WHEREAS, among other issues, underage drinking increases the risk of suicide and homicide, physical and sexual assault, use and misuse of other drugs, and is a risk factor for heavy drinking later in life; and

WHEREAS, among adolescents ages 12 to 20, AI/ANs had the highest major depressive episode prevalence in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the suicide rate among AI/AN adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 34 (31 per 100,000) is 2.5 times higher than the national average for that age group (12.2 per 100,000); and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reports that AI/AN youth had higher rates of drinking alcohol before age 13 compared to national rates (28.2 compared to 18.6 respectively) and data from the American Drug and Alcohol Survey administered to Native youth at 33 schools from 2009-2012 showed much higher prevalence of drug and alcohol use amongst 8th and 10th grade Native youth in comparison to national averages; and

WHEREAS, access to treatment facilities is critical to the well-being of AI/AN people who suffer from mental health or substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion under section 1905(a)(B) of the Social Security Act, prohibits “payments with respect to care or services for any individual who has not attained 65 years of age and who is a patient in an institution for mental diseases except for inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under age 21;” and

WHEREAS, the law defines “institutions for mental diseases” as any “hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds, that is the primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services;” and

WHEREAS, the IMD 16-bed capacity restriction and funding limitations keep many AI/AN people from accessing needed inpatient treatment services; and

WHEREAS, the IMD exclusion was intended to ensure that states, rather than the federal government, would have principal responsibility for funding inpatient psychiatric services; and

WHEREAS, legislation amending Title XIX of the Social Security Act (SSA) would provide States with an option to provide medical assistance to individuals between the ages of 22 and 64 for inpatient services to treat substance abuse at residential treatment facilities would benefit AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, amending the SSA to increase the institutions for mental diseases 16-bed limit to 40 or more beds would benefit AI/AN people in need of residential treatment under the Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program; and

WHEREAS, grant awards are needed to expand the infrastructure and treatment capabilities, including augmenting equipment and bed capacity, of youth addiction treatment facilities serving AI/AN at-risk youth that provide addiction and mental health treatment services to Medicaid or CHIP beneficiaries who have not attained the age of 21 and who are considered part of a medically underserved population; and

WHEREAS, such grant awards must allow for expanding infrastructure, staffing, and treatment capacities of existing facilities (including construction) and new facilities construction; and

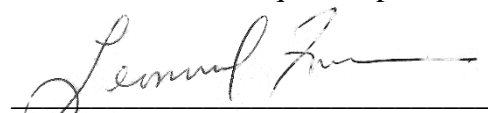
WHEREAS, any grant awards must give priority to providing addiction treatment services to AI/AN Medicaid or CHIP beneficiaries who have not attained the age of 21; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the U.S. Congress to support legislation that:

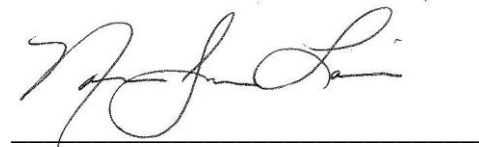
- Amends title XIX of the Social Security Act (SSA) to provide States with an option to provide medical assistance to individuals between the ages of 22 and 64 for inpatient services to treat substance abuse at residential treatment facilities under the Medicaid/CHIP program;
- Amends the SSA to increase the institutions for mental diseases 16-bed limit to 40 or more beds;
- Provides grant awards to expand the infrastructure and treatment capabilities, including augmenting equipment and bed capacity, of eligible youth addiction treatment facilities serving AI/AN at-risk youth that provide addiction and mental health treatment services to Medicaid or CHIP beneficiaries who have not attained the age of 21 and who are considered a medically underserved population;
- Provides that grant awards may be used to expand infrastructure, staffing and treatment capacities of existing facilities (including construction) and new facilities construction; and
- Appropriates at least \$50,000,000 for grant awards with at least 25% of such funds to youth addiction treatment facilities serving AI/AN at-risk youth who are Medicaid or CHIP beneficiaries and who have not attained the age of 21; and with no matching funds requirements.

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