



2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD March 14, 2018

RESOLUTION #18 - 22

“PATHWAYS INTO HEALTH”

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, AI/ANs have very limited access to health care services and are disproportionately affected by health disparities and these disparities are directly attributed to the lack of health professionals in Indian communities, which has caused a serious access issue and backlog of many health services for AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, many of our member Tribes have great difficulty and face significant challenges in recruiting health professionals into their communities that results in further challenges in ensuring continuity and comprehensive healthcare for AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, the Pathways into Health: Northwest Native American Center of Excellence (NNACOE) has been in existence since 2017 as a program of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in partnership with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB); and

WHEREAS, NPAIHB will work collaboratively to increase Native youth interest in health professionals careers using the text messaging platform and We R Native; and

WHEREAS, NPAIHB will connect OHSU medical students interested in Native American health to existing research projects to support their scholarly project requirement; and

WHEREAS, OHSU is the only academic health center in the state of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, OHSU is one of the only universities in the U.S. devoted exclusively to educating doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and public health professionals; and

WHEREAS, OHSU strives for excellence in education, research, and scholarship, clinical practice and community service as part of its multifaceted public mission; and

WHEREAS, OHSU School of Medicine seeks to enhance human health through programs of excellence in education, research, health and public service to the larger community including underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE recruits, trains, and retains Native American health professional students and faculty to promote and provide high quality, safe, accessible and culturally appropriate health care; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE trains tomorrow's health professions workforce in Native American health issues, health equity and social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE furthers tribal-academic partnerships in education and research in order to meet the research needs of tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE aims to be an effective method for diminishing the health disparities of AI/AN communities, and for promoting access to health services for AI/AN people residing in rural, remote and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE fosters recruitment and training of providers from within Tribal communities who provide patient-centered quality care that comes from providers that understand the history, culture, and language of their patients; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE supports continuity of care in communities that face recruitment and retention challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and its member tribal organizations would benefit from continuation of this program; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is concerned that the House Labor and Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee proposes a 55% funding cut for FY 2018 leaving funding uncertain for the NNACOE; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports level funding for HRSA Bureau of Workforce Grant Funding in FY 2019; and

WHEREAS, the HRSA is one of several federal agencies that fund or provide programs and services to Tribes and AI/AN communities that are part of the federal government's trust responsibility and treaty obligations to tribes.

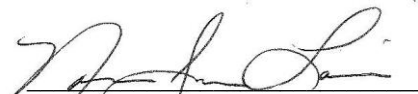
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that Congress support level funding for FY 2018 for the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce Grant funding (1D34HP31026) that supports the Native American Center of Excellence and opposes any budget cuts to this program as this is a violation of the federal government's trust responsibility and treaty obligations to tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER, that ATNI requests that Congress support level funding for FY 2019 for the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce Grant funding (1D34HP31026) that supports the Native American Center of Excellence.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a quorum of the ATNI Executive Board on March 14, 2018, by e-mail.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary