The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-073

TITLE: Urging and Supporting an Oyate American Indian Alcohol Harm
Prevention Project

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American 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 the inherent sovereign
rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with
the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the
laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of
the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health,
safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following
resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was
established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American
Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, NCAI congratulates the Oglala Lakota people for their historic
and stunning victory in 2017, closing down four destructive liquor stores in Whiteclay,
Nebraska which had contributed to massive rates of alcoholism and binge drinking in
their nation; and

WHEREAS, the harm to the Pine Ridge Reservation continues today, as over
90% of crime in Pine Ride is alcohol-related and one in four children born suffer from
fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, a series of conditions caused by drinking alcohol
during pregnancy that includes fetal alcohol syndrome; and

WHEREAS, in Pine Ridge, binge drinking and alcoholism is considered
among the greatest preventable health risks next to diabetes and suicide; and

WHEREAS, a key partner to the Oglala activists was the California-based
national non-profit advocacy organization, Alcohol Justice, recognized as a national
industry watchdog, a leader in alcohol policy, research and advocacy for over 30 years,
maintaining as a core value, promotion of evidence-based public health policies and
organizing local, state and national coalitions and campaigns with diverse
communities and youth against the alcohol industry’s harmful practices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of
American Indians (NCAI) supports an American Indian Alcohol Harm Youth
Prevention Project in Pine Ridge South Dakota to be sponsored by Alcohol Justice; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports research that explicates the harms and causes of alcohol harm including historical trauma from alcohol use and abuse in Pine Ridge South Dakota and in American Indian tribal nations, and provide actionable policy solutions for tribal leaders, tribal citizens, and policy makers across tribal nations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.

Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary