



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #SD-15-

TITLE: *Encouraging use of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by individual tribal citizen, regardless of location*

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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, 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, The Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010 to provide health insurance to millions of Americans who otherwise could not afford health care and to make health care more affordable; and

WHEREAS, Although the program started slowly with a number of computer glitches, it has now enrolled almost 10 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, Individual Native Americans as defined in the ACA are not required to pay a tax under the individual mandate; and

WHEREAS, According to health care management professionals, approximately 90 % of Native Americans are able to qualify for low cost or no cost health care insurance through the marketplace exchanges established by the Act or because they are within 300% of the federal poverty line and qualify for Medicaid expansion in states where that coverage is available; and

WHEREAS, Under the ACA, Native Americans are not subject to the individual tax that is imposed if an individual the individual is not insured under the ACA; and

WHEREAS, under the ACA, it is recommended that all Native Americans determine their eligibility for the ACA because in many cases the Indian Health Service (IHS) is not the best or even the cheapest choice for provision of adequate health care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI hereby supports

utilization of the ACA by tribal citizens and urges all its member tribes to encourage their citizens, both on and off the reservation, to apply for health care coverage through the ACA enrollment website, and to seek the appropriate health care coverage that best meets their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information contained in this resolution should be distributed to all federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States and otherwise disseminated to public media.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2015 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Resort, San Diego, CA, October 18-24, 2015, with a quorum present.

Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:

Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary