THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-043

Title: Support for Efforts to Continue and Extend the Congressional Allocation of the Special Diabetes Program for American Indians/Alaska Natives with a Funding Increase from $100 million to $200 Million

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 and their way of life, 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, diabetes is a major health concern throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, tribes formally identified diabetes as their number #1 health priority at the Fund Distribution Meeting last year; and

WHEREAS, there is verified data showing that the prevalence of diabetes is increasing rapidly among American Indians and Alaskan Natives due to forced changes in traditional foods; and

WHEREAS, since 1998 Congress has appropriated special funds to help Indian communities control diabetes through prevention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the final year's allocation of the special funds to help Indian communities will be $100 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003; and
WHEREAS, the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC), the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA) support the funding to be increased from $100 million per year to $200 million per year beginning FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, TLDC, JDF, and ADA support these funds to be extended for 10 years beginning in FY 2004; and

WHEREAS, tribes have utilized these Special diabetes funds for the prevention of diabetes, health promotion, and data improvement; and

WHEREAS, the tribes have determined these funds to be critical in the fight against diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Bill 3018 would increase funding to $150 million per year beginning in FY 2004 and extend funding for three additional years; and

WHEREAS, the tribes support the endorsement made by TLDC, JDF and ADA to continue to increase the special diabetes funds from $100 million per year to $200 million per year beginning FY 2003 and to extend these funds for 10 years beginning in FY 2004 with an inflation adjustment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support efforts to continue and extend the Congressional allocation of the Special Diabetes Program for American Indians/Alaska Natives with a funding increase from $100 million to $200 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports this year’s effort to pass Senate Bill 3018; 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 at the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

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Juana Majel, Recording Secretary