Title: Support for New Legislation in the 108th Congress to Continue the Provisions of Senate Bill 212 and House Bill HR 1662 Introduced in the 107th Congress for the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act with Proposed Tribal Recommendations for Changes

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, the IHS is the federal agency with the responsibility to fund Indian health programs operated by Tribes and by the IHS but has insufficient funds to meet the health care needs of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (P.L. 94-437) is the fundamental authorizing legislation for Indian health programs; and

WHEREAS, tribes and Indian people nationwide have participated in the work of the National Steering Committee on Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act most recently in a national meeting in Portland Oregon on May 28-30, 2002; and
WHEREAS, the National Steering Committee on Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that has developed a proposed bill that was transmitted to the Congress on October 8, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has introduced S 212, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Reauthorization of 2001, and the House has introduced HR 1662, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2001, both of which incorporate the proposed changes included in the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban (ITU) developed bill.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby reaffirm its support for new bills based on Senate Bill S. 212 and the House Bill HR 1662 (of the 107th Congress); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI urges the congressional committees to hold hearings in the 108th Congress on new bills to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that incorporate the recommendations of tribes for the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement; 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
