THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-084

Title: Support for 2002 Final Report on American Indian and Alaska Native Roundtable on Long Term Care

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 Indian Health Service (IHS) in partnership with the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) held a Roundtable Conference on American Indian and Alaska Native Long Term Care on April 11, 12, 2002; and

WHEREAS, a final report of the Roundtable Conference containing “Implications and Recommendations” for Long Term Care in American Indian and Alaska Native communities was reviewed by the Elders Subcommittee for the National Congress of American Indians at the 2002 convention in San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives over the age of 55 has doubled in the last decade and the life expectancy for this population continues to increase; and
WHEREAS, the need for Long Term Care services in American Indian and Alaska Native communities is expected to increase proportionate to the aging population; and

WHEREAS, financing Long Term Care services is largely dependent upon successfully billing for services through state Medicaid programs, as the IHS and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) have not provided funding for these services overall; and

WHEREAS, local tribal communities planning to develop Long Term Care services must closely examine a multitude of issues, such as coordination in services, case management, stakeholder involvement, workforce development, start-up costs, Medicaid and other financing options, cultural appropriateness of services and ongoing operation/maintenance concerns; and

WHEREAS, Long Term Care is more than just nursing homes, but can include a wide continuum of services including Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), assisted living services, skilled nursing facilities and institutionalized care (nursing homes); and

WHEREAS, tribal community health care and housing systems have the potential to develop effective, high quality, culturally appropriate Long Term Care systems that can be sustained through Medicaid reimbursements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI Executive Committee will review the “American Indian and Alaska Native Roundtable on Long Term Care: Final Report 2002” implications and recommendations in order to determine its support for the report and calls upon the appropriate federal agencies, including the Indian Health Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to review the detailed recommendations to identify opportunities and implement actions to support tribal efforts to develop Long Term Care services in tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the 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