



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

### RESOLUTION #SD-02-003

#### Title: Supporting Increased Funding for an Extension of the Special Diabetes Programs for Indians

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**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**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**, in 1997, the United States Congress created the Special Diabetes Programs for Indians (SDPI), and initially provided \$30 million funding annually via grant programs to prevent and treat diabetes in Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Congressional appropriations and subsequent funding increases, Indian tribes have been able to provide diabetes prevention, fitness and nutrition education services, which are funded through the SDPI; and

**WHEREAS**, while Indian people actively participate in tribal diabetes prevention programs, in order for these programs to succeed, continued, long-term funding is required to change the health behavior of at least one generation of Native Americans and thereby establish a

diabetes risk prevention lifestyle; and

**WHEREAS**, along with other national organizations, the National Congress of the American Indians has worked to secure an annual increase of \$100 million in the SDPI starting in FY 2003 and a program extension through FY 2013 (NCAI Resolution #BIS-02-044); and

**WHEREAS**, S.3018, the "Beneficiary Access to Care and Medicare Equity Act of 2002," which is sponsored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), would increase SDPI funding by \$50 million to \$150 million annually and extend funding through FY 2006 (S. 3018, 107<sup>th</sup> Cong. §901) (2002)); and

**WHEREAS**, although S. 3018 does not extend the SDPI for as long a period or authorize as great a level of additional funding as requested by NCAI member tribes in NCAI Resolution #BIS-02-044, S. 3018 would greatly benefit the Tohono O'odham Nation and other tribes in their diabetes prevention efforts.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby urge that the U.S. Congress pass S. 3018, thereby extending the Special Diabetes Programs for Indians and providing additional funding for this successful program that is a central component of meeting the federal government's trust responsibility for providing Indian health care; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI hereby amends NCAI Resolution #BIS-02-044 to support the passage of S. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 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.