

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-070**

**Title: Support for the \$18.24 Billion Needs-Based Budget for FY 2003**

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

**WHEREAS**, in the past 9 years the IHS budget has absorbed over \$2 billion in mandatory cost increases due to inflation, pay act cost increases, staffing for new facilities and population growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the IHS consulted with tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian health organizations including the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), the Tribal Self Governance Advisory Group and the National Indian Health Board in the development of the FY 2003 budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget formulation team developed a FY 2003 \$18.24 billion budget that would fully fund all the health needs of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN); and

**WHEREAS**, the IHS, Indian Tribes and Urban health programs (ITU) budget formulation team made funding mandatory cost increases their first priority; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2003 Needs-Based Budget was presented to the Department of Health and Human Services on June 13, 2001 in Washington, DC.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support the \$18.24 billion FY 2003 Needs-Based IHS budget submitted by the ITU Budget Formulation Team to the Department of Health and Human Services.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

**ATTEST:**

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Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.