



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-026

Title: Support HR 293 and S 214: the Elevation of the Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services

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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 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, largest, and most representative national American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service is administratively located in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and

WHEREAS, over twenty-five percent of all Department of Health and Human Services employees are employees of the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Indian Health Service, the top administrative official charged with carrying out the federal responsibility for Indian Health, does not report directly to the Secretary of HHS; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI believes that Indian Health needs are best served when the Secretary of HHS hears directly from the lead advocate for Indian health programs; and

WHEREAS, Senator Inouye, Senator John McCain, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Senator Conrad and Senator Daschle has recognized the need for a federal advocate for Indian Health; and introduced Senate Bill S 214 and HR 293 which provides for the elevation of the Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution and the passage of Senate Bill HR 293 and S 214 which would elevate the Director of Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

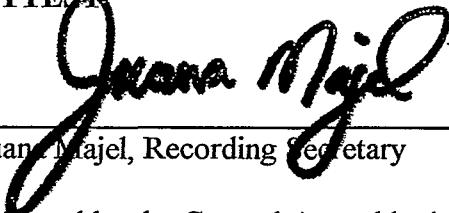
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001, with a quorum present.



Susan Masten, President

ATTEST:



Juan Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001.