



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

**The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-042**

TITLE: Support for Permanent Reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and Changes to the Indian Self-Determination Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) to Support SDPI Funding Through Title I and Title V Funding Agreements

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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 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 United States (U.S.) has a unique and special relationship with American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) to provide health care as established through the U.S. Constitution, treaties, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN adults are 2.3 times more likely to have been diagnosed diabetes compared with non-Hispanic whites; and

WHEREAS, the death rate due to diabetes for AI/ANs is 1.8 times higher than the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) for the prevention and treatment of diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) for five years; and

WHEREAS, Congress reauthorized SDPI for one to three year periods from 2002 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, the current renewal of SDPI expires in November, 2019; and

WHEREAS, SDPI provides grants for diabetes treatment and prevention services to 301 IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs in 35 states and funds Community Directed Grant Programs; and

WHEREAS, SDPI has had positive clinical and community outcomes, including the incident rate of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) due to diabetes in AI/AN people falling by 54% between 1999 and 2003 - a greater decline than for any other racial or ethnic group; the average blood sugar level (A1c) decreased from 9.0% in 1996 to 8.1% in 2014; and the average LDL (“bad” cholesterol) declined from 118 mg/dL in 1998 to 92 mg/dL in 2014; and

WHEREAS, tribal nations have successful SDPI programs, 39 in California Area and 40 in the Portland Area, with consistent positive clinical and community outcomes; and

WHEREAS, SDPI funding has been at \$150 million since 2004 and does not include medical inflation; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), P.L. 93-638, was enacted to (1) place the federal government’s Indian programs firmly in the hands of the local Indian people being served, (2) to enhance and empower local tribal governments and their governmental institutions, and (3) to correspondingly reduce the federal bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, tribal nations have successfully implemented ISDEAA in Title I or Title V funding agreements and could manage SDPI funds through such funding agreements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports permanent reauthorization of SDPI at \$200 million per year with medical inflation rate increases annually; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI requests an amendment to Section 505(b) of the ISDEAA (25 U.S.C. 458aaa-4(b)) to add the following new subparagraph (3) and/or such other language that would effectuate the intent of this resolution:

(3) At the option of an Indian Tribe, a grant for a special diabetes program for Indians awarded to that Indian tribe under Section 330C(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(b)(2)) shall, after award, be added to the Title I or Title V funding agreements of that Indian Tribe under this Act, and shall be administered and implemented in accordance with the provisions of this Act rather than the Secretary’s grant regulations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

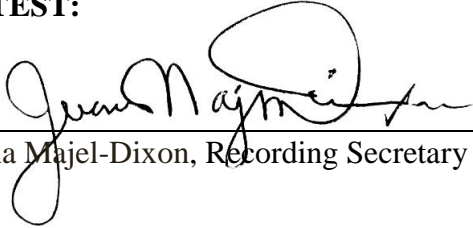
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel-Dixon, Recording Secretary