



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-073

TITLE: Urging and Supporting an Oyate American Indian Alcohol Harm Prevention Project

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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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, NCAI congratulates the Oglala Lakota people for their historic and stunning victory in 2017, closing down four destructive liquor stores in Whiteclay, Nebraska which had contributed to massive rates of alcoholism and binge drinking in their nation; and

WHEREAS, the harm to the Pine Ridge Reservation continues today, as over 90% of crime in Pine Ridge is alcohol-related and one in four children born suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, a series of conditions caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy that includes fetal alcohol syndrome; and

WHEREAS, in Pine Ridge, binge drinking and alcoholism is considered among the greatest preventable health risks next to diabetes and suicide; and

WHEREAS, a key partner to the Oglala activists was the California-based national non-profit advocacy organization, Alcohol Justice, recognized as a national industry watchdog, a leader in alcohol policy, research and advocacy for over 30 years, maintaining as a core value, promotion of evidence-based public health policies and organizing local, state and national coalitions and campaigns with diverse communities and youth against the alcohol industry's harmful practices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports an American Indian Alcohol Harm Youth Prevention Project in Pine Ridge South Dakota to be sponsored by Alcohol Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports research that explicates the harms and causes of alcohol harm including historical trauma from alcohol use and abuse in Pine Ridge South Dakota and in American Indian tribal nations, and provide actionable policy solutions for tribal leaders, tribal citizens, and policy makers across tribal nations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

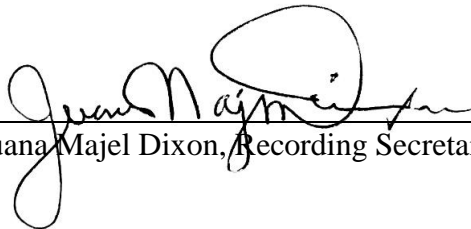
CERTIFICATION

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