Comments:
This resolution requests that NCAI recommends that Congress support a $6.5 billion increase to the IHS FY 2022 budget over FY 2021 enacted level to fund IHS at $12.8 billion in FY 2022 and move IHS to full funding of $48 billion.

Recommendations:

The Resolutions Committee recommends tabling this resolution as NCAI has already endorsed and supported this request in both their FY 2022 Indian Country Budget Request and in recent written testimony to the House Appropriations Committee.

Sponsor a member in good standing (yes/no)?: _Y___
TITLE: Call on Congress to Support Full Funding for FY 2022 Indian Health Service Budget

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, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with significantly higher rates of COVID-19 cases (3.5x), hospitalizations (5.3x), and deaths (1.8x) than non-Hispanic whites; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and Tribal Organizations that enter into contracts and compacts with the United States government operate programs funded under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act are required to negotiate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services or other federal agencies an indirect cost rate for administrative costs associated with carrying out their contractual requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (HIS) has been chronically underfunded as demonstrated by the disparity of federal health care spending of the IHS ($4,078 per person in FY 2019) compared to federal health care spending nationwide ($11,582 per person in FY 2019); and

WHEREAS, President Biden released the FY 2022 discretionary budget request which includes a 23.5% increase to the Department of Health and Human Services over the 2021 enacted level; and

WHEREAS, the President’s discretionary budget proposal is intended to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, improve public health infrastructure, and advance equity across the U.S.; and
WHEREAS, the President has stated his commitment to Tribal Nations and to fully funding the Indian Health Service (IHS); and

WHEREAS, the President’s request for IHS FY 2022 budget includes a $2.2 billion increase over FY 2021 enacted level and a request for advance appropriations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed $8.5 billion for IHS in FY 2022 is $4.2 billion below the FY 2022 National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup Recommendation of $12.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup has requested full funding of IHS at $48 billion; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a trust responsibility and treaty obligations to ensure that Tribes and American Indian and Alaska Natives are fully funded to meet their health care and service needs; and

WHEREAS, funding IHS in FY 2022 at $12.8 billion to address the growing health disparities and urgent health care needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people is in fulfillment of the federal government’s treaty and trust obligations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians recommends that Congress support a $6.5 billion increase to the IHS FY 2022 budget over FY 2021 enacted level to fund IHS at $12.8 billion in FY 2022 and move IHS to full funding of $48 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians calls on Congress to support the President’s request for advance appropriations for FY 2023.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.

Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary