Resolutions Committee Recommendation
Resolution #: AK-21-016
Title: Requests to Federal, State and Local Governments as to Official Tribal Vaccination Record Card and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Card

Comments:
AK-21-016 highlights the need for Official Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and an Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards to be recognized nationwide as proof of vaccination. The resolution urges the federal, state and local governments to: (1) recognize Tribal Nations as sovereign nations uniquely positioned to accurately and timely respond to vaccination records for their tribal citizens and service populations; (2) recognize Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards as official documents to confirm vaccination status; (3) recognize Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards in vaccine guidance documents and/or other policies that reference federal, state and local government vaccination documentation; and (4) acknowledge and recognize that Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Vaccination Record Cards enhance the health and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing required documentation with fewer barriers to access lifesaving vaccinations and official records.

Recommendations:
The Resolutions Committee recommends that this Resolution be considered by the Human Resources Committee, Health Subcommittee. The resolution is emergency in nature and national in scope.

Sponsor a member in good standing (yes/no)?: __Y__
The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #AK-21-016

TITLE: Requests to Urging Federal, State and Local Governments as to to Recognize Official Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards

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 acknowledges the need for an Official Tribal Vaccination Record Card and an Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Card in support of COVID-19 and vaccination record needs as recommended by the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) Tribal/Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition (TUIHIC) along with the AIHC TUIHIC Vaccine Hesitancy Task Force; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized tribes Tribal Nations are sovereign nations and the United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribal governments Nations established through and confirmed by the U.S. Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and on March 13, 2020 was a nationwide presidential emergency disaster was declared a national emergency by the Presidentin the United States; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) persons are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with many experiencing serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, currently there are one three or more approved COVID-19 vaccines available on a limited basis currently in FY 2021 and an increase in approvedmore vaccines may be approved going forward potentially later; and
WHEREAS, tribal Nations and urban Indian health facilities have been administering vaccines to their tribal citizens and to American Indians, and Alaska Natives, and from other Tribal Nations, as well as their to Non-Indians in surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, tribes as sovereign nations, seek the recognition of Tribal Vaccination Record Cards to be accepted nationwide in the non-Indian, nationwide health systems and-within federal, state and local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, tribes support the recognition of Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards to be accepted nationwide in the non-Indian, nationwide health systems located in and federal, state and local jurisdictions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) requests that federal, state and local governments and their agencies to:

- Recognize tribes as sovereign nations uniquely positioned to accurately and timely respond to vaccination records for their tribal citizens and service populations; and

- Recognize Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards as official source documents to confirm vaccination status; and

- Ensure that Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards be recognized in vaccine guidance documents and/or other policies and referenced along-with federal, state and local governments vaccination documentation; and

- Acknowledge and recognize that Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Vaccination Record Cards enhance the health and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing required documentation with fewer obstacles and barriers for American Indian and Alaska Native participation and to reach access as many as possible with lifesaving vaccinations and official records thereof.

BE IT FURTHER 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 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.

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Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary
The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #AK-21-016

TITLE: Requests to Federal, State and Local Governments as to Official Tribal Vaccination Record Card and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Card

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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 acknowledges the need for an Official Tribal Vaccination Record Card and an Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Card in support of COVID-19 and vaccination record needs as recommended by the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) Tribal/Urban Indian Health Immunization Coalition (TUIHIC) along with the AIHC TUIHIC Vaccine Hesitancy Task Force; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized tribes are sovereign nations and the United States has a unique legal and political relationship with tribal governments established through and confirmed by the U.S. Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, executive orders, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and on March 13, 2020 was declared a national emergency by the President; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) persons are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with many experiencing serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, there are one or more approved COVID-19 vaccines available on a limited basis currently in FY 2021 and an increase in approved vaccines potentially later; and
WHEREAS, tribal and urban Indian health facilities have been administering vaccines to their tribal citizens and to American Indians and Alaska Natives from other Tribal Nations, as well as their surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, tribes, as sovereign nations, seek recognition of Tribal Vaccination Record Cards to be accepted in the non-Indian, nationwide health system and federal, state and local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, tribes support the recognition of Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards to be accepted in the non-Indian, nationwide health system and federal, state and local jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) requests that federal, state and local governments and their agencies:

- Recognize tribes as sovereign nations uniquely positioned to accurately and timely respond to vaccination records for their tribal citizens and service populations; and
- Recognize Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards as official sources of providing vaccination status; and
- Ensure that Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards be recognized in vaccine guidance documents or other policies and referenced along with federal, state and local governments; and
- Acknowledge and recognize that the Tribal Vaccination Record Cards and Urban Indian Vaccination Record Cards enhance the health and well-being of American Indian/Alaska Natives by providing required documentation with fewer obstacles and barriers for American Indian and Alaska Native participation and to reach as many as possible with lifesaving vaccinations and official records thereof.
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.

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Fawn Sharp, President

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