



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-016

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TITLE: Urging Federal, State and Local Governments 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; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations are sovereign nations and the United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribal Nations established through 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 a nationwide presidential emergency disaster was declared in the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, currently there are three approved COVID-19 vaccines available on a limited basis and more vaccines may be approved going forward; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations and urban Indian health facilities have been administering vaccines to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and to Non-Indians in surrounding communities; and

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

WHEREAS, Urban Indian Health Vaccination Record Cards should also be accepted nationwide in the non-Indian health systems located in federal, state and local jurisdictions; and

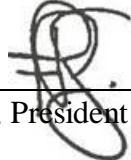
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) urges federal, state and local governments and their agencies to:

- Recognize Tribal Nations 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 documents to confirm vaccination status; and
- 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
- 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.

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.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

Juana Majel Dixon

Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary