



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-019

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TITLE: Support for of Ending the HIV Epidemic in Indian Country

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, more than 700,000 lives, and at least 2,019 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) lives, have been lost to HIV in the United States since 1981; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.1 million Americans, and at least 3,035 AI/AN people, are currently living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, from 2013 through 2017 rates of new diagnosis of HIV for increased to 7.8 per 100,000 – although rates of new HIV diagnosis decreased or stayed stable for all other racial and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, without intervention many more AI/AN peoples will be newly diagnosed over the next 10 years – despite the available tools to prevent infections; and

WHEREAS, the United States has trust and treaty obligations to provide healthcare to AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, to achieve the goal and address the ongoing public health crisis of HIV, the proposed *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* will leverage the powerful data and tools now available to reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 75 percent in five years and by 90 percent by 2030; and

WHEREAS, in order for tribes and AI/AN people to be included in the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* funding must be allocated to tribes and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Programs to develop infrastructure and systems to diagnose, treat, prevent and respond to the HIV Epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI is deeply concerned that lack of funding for Ending the HIV in Indian Country will likely lead to continued HIV health disparities and health outcomes for AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services is subject to trust and treaty obligations and must ensure funding is available to tribes and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) fully supports HIV funding as part of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* in Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls on the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Indian Health Service and its other agencies, for inclusion of tribes and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Programs in future budgets and national initiatives; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon Congress to fully fund tribes and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Programs to develop infrastructure and systems to diagnose, treat, prevent and respond to HIV as part of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*.

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