Comments:
This resolution calls on the federal government to meet its treaty and trust responsibility to fully fund infrastructures and systems to diagnose, treat, prevent and respond to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in American Indians and Alaska Natives. AK-21-019 also calls on the federal government to include Tribal Nations, the Indian Health Service, and Urban Indian Health Programs in future HIV and HCV budgets and national initiatives.

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-21-019

TITLE: Support for of Ending HCV and 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 Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) lives, have been lost to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the United States since 1981; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.1 million Americans, including thousands of American Indians and Alaska Natives 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 AI/ANs increased even though to 7.8 per 100,000 although rates of new HIV diagnosis decreased or stabilized for all other minority racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, without intervention many AI/ANs and Alaska Natives will be newly diagnosed with HIV 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 American Indians and Alaska Natives AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2019, President Donald J. Trump in his State of the Union announced his Administration’s goal to end the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years; and
WHEREAS, to achieve the goal and address the ongoing public health crisis of HIV, the federal government must 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 American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) to be included in the federal HIV efforts, Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America funding must be allocated to Tribal Nations, the tribes and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Organizations, Health Programs to develop infrastructure and systems to diagnose, treat, prevent and respond to the HIV epidemic; and

WHEREAS, past Presidential budgets and appropriations did not include substantial HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) funding for the $25 million was proposed in the President’s Indian Health Service budget for FY 2020 for HIV and viral hepatitis C (HCV) as part of the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America and final appropriations for the Indian Health Service for FY 2020 did not include HIV and HCV funding; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI is deeply concerned that lack of funding for Ending the HIV and HCV in Indian Country will likely lead to continued HIV and HCV health disparities and health outcomes for American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services is subject to trust and treaty obligations and must ensure that essential HIV and HCV funding is made available for American Indians and Alaska Natives; and for tribes American Indians and Alaska Natives and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Programs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) fully supports HIV and viral hepatitis C (HCV) funding for American Indians and Alaska Natives as part of the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America in American Indians and Alaska Natives 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 Tribal Nations, tribes, and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Health Programs, Organizations in future HIV and HCV budgets and national initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon Congress to fully fund Tribal Nations, tribes and the Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Health Programs to develop infrastructure and systems to diagnose, treat, prevent and respond to HIV and HCV in American Indians and Alaska Natives, and in American Indians and Alaska Natives as part of the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America; 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 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.

ATTEST:

____________________________________
Fawn Sharp, President

____________________________________
Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary
The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #AK-21-019

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 AI/AN people 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, on February 5, 2019, President Donald J. Trump in his State of the Union announced his Administration’s goal to end the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years; 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, $25 million was proposed in the President’s Indian Health Service budget for FY 2020 for HIV and viral hepatitis C (HCV) as part of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* and final appropriations for the Indian Health Service for FY 2020 did not include HIV and HCV funding; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI is deeply concerned that lack of funding for Ending the HIV in Indian Country will likely lead to continued HIV and HCV 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 and viral hepatitis c (HCV) 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 and HCV 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.

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Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary