



RESOLUTION # 06-02-06
Support to Exempt Indian people from detrimental
Medicaid provisions in Deficit Reduction Act of 2005

NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD

Burns-Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d' Alene Tribe
Colville Tribe
Coos, Suislaw &
Lower Umpqua Tribe
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Grand Ronde Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha Tribe
Lummi Tribe
Makah Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribe
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Tribe
NW Band of Shoshoni Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinalt Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
Siletz Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Spokane Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Umatilla Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is a tribal organization under P.L. 93-638 that represents forty-three Federally-recognized Indian tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho on health related issues; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is to improve the health and quality of life of its member tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 will have a significant change in the Medicaid program that include changes in cost-sharing, benefits flexibility, and documentation requirements for enrollment in Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes will have a significant impact on Indian people participating in Medicaid that will lead to a reduction in health services that Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal health programs currently provide by reducing reimbursements currently provided by the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursements have become an essential funding source for the Indian health system that are used to supplement IHS funding and used to expand health services that would normally be provided and paid for under the Contract Health Services programs; and

WHEREAS, these services assist states to meet the requirements of comparability and state-wideness in state Medicaid plans and provide health services that are mutually beneficial to the non-Indian and Indian people alike; and

WHEREAS, any changes in eligibility rules, benefits packages, and cost-sharing will have profound consequences on the health and well being of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people that will also have serious financial consequences on the ability of Indian health programs to continue to provide essential health services to some of the poorest communities in the United States.

WHEREAS, the financial barriers of having to pay premiums and co-payments will simply mean that Indian people will quit enrolling in Medicaid (why should they when they can receive their health services from IHS at no cost?) and the decreases in Medicaid enrollment will deprive chronically under-funded Indian health programs of vital Medicaid revenues; and

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WHEREAS, the decrease in Medicaid enrollment and lost revenue will cause a further decline in the health status of Indian people who already have the worse health disparities of any group in the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board urge Congress and the House of Representatives to exempt American Indian and Alaska Native people from the cost sharing requirements and benefits flexibility provisions contained in the Budget Reduction Deficit Act of 2005 since it will serve s a barrier for Indian people to enroll in Medicaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board urge Congress and the House of Representatives to exempt American Indian and Alaska Native people from estate recovery provisions contained in the Budget Reduction Deficit Act of 2005 since most Indian own very little, if any, significant assets and most land is held in trust by the United States government.

CERTIFICATION

NO. 06-02-06

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 25 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on January 19th, 2006.

Linda Hill
Chairman

1/19/2006
Date

Stella M. Washner
Secretary