



**RESOLUTION # 07-04-05
NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**



**RESOLUTION # 249-07-07
CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN
HEALTH BOARD**

JOINT RESOLUTION

Position on the Implementation of State and National Health Reform and the Achievement of Universal Access to Health Care

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is a tribal organization under P.L. 93-638 that represents 43 Federally-recognized Indian tribes in Oregon, Washington and Idaho and is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people in the Northwest; **AND**

WHEREAS, the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB), founded in 1969 for the purpose of bringing back health services to Indians of California; is a tribal organization in accordance with Public Law 93-638, is a statewide tribal health organization representing 36 Federally recognized tribes in 21 counties through its membership of 11 Indian Health Programs throughout California's Indian Country; **AND**

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB and CRIHB are dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; **AND**

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the NPAIHB and CRIHB is to improve the health and quality of life of its member tribes; **AND**

WHEREAS, the United States government has a unique trust responsibility to the American Indian and Alaska Native population as established in the US Constitution and Federal Court decisions federal law and government to government treaties; **AND**

WHEREAS, the health and health related services funded through the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Congressionally established access to other forms of government sponsored coverage including Medicare, Medicaid and the State- Children's Health Insurance Program; **AND**

WHEREAS, Almost 2 million American Indian and Alaska Native people choose as their usual and customary provider of health services the IHS operated and Tribally Operated Health Programs which have been destructively and persistently under funded; **AND**

WHEREAS, This population continues to experience disparities in health status exemplified by unacceptably high rates of morbidity and mortality, from diseases and causes including diabetes, unintentional injury and cardio vascular disease as well as high rates of hospitalization for ambulatory care sensitive diagnosis; **AND**

WHEREAS, Several states including California and Massachusetts have taken the first steps to establish universal access to health care services and many candidates campaigning for the office of the US President have announced their plans to achieve universal access to health services for all Americans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: CRIHB and the NPAIHB support the adoption of federal legislation that would assure universal access to health care services to all legal residents of the United States and Alaska Native/American Indian populations. Such legislation should require the establishment of a defined set of services comprehensive enough to included medical, dental and behavioral health services which would include prevention, diagnosis, treatment, amelioration and assistive services and equipment as well as the pharmaceuticals necessary for the treatment or control of disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The establishment of universal health access should include the maintenance and expansion of the unique health care delivery system provided to Alaska Natives and American Indians which is administrated by the US Indian Health Service in consultation with Tribes and Tribal Organizations; **AND**

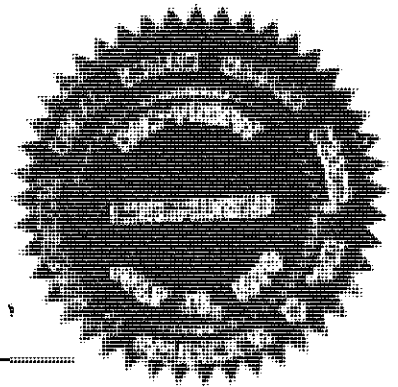
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The use of the Indian Health Service and Tribally Operated Health Programs as a method of providing the full set of defined services to the Alaska Native and American Indian population at no cost, to assure the most effective implementation of these services in the most culturally competent manner. And that fully funding the Indian Health Service to provide health care delivery would result in improved health status for American Indians and Alaska Natives necessary for the revitalization of Tribal languages, cultures, values and populations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing joint resolution was adopted at a duly called regular joint meeting of the Board of Directors of Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and California Rural Indian Health Board (*NPAIHB* vote 27 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain; *CRIHB* vote 18 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain) held this 26th day of July 2007 in Reno, Nevada and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded.

**NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**
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Spide Holt

Chairperson of the Board

Barbara K. Bird

Chairperson of the Board

Stella M. Washburn

Attest

Cherie Thomas

Attest