



**RESOLUTION # 07-04-09
NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**



**RESOLUTION # 253- 07- 07
CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN
HEALTH BOARD**

JOINT RESOLUTION

Calling for Recognition of Proof of Tribal Membership as Proof of US Citizenship for the Purpose of Obtaining Medicaid Funded Benefits.

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 American Indian and Alaska Native population benefit from a unique trust relationship with the United States government as established in the US Constitution and Federal Court decisions federal law and government to government treaties; **AND**

WHEREAS, Individual Tribal Governments are located in whole or in part within the boundaries of what is now the United States of America and each Tribal Government has the inherent authority to identify its own members; **AND**

WHEREAS, Many members of Federally Recognized Tribes, especially the elderly and the poor are dependent on the Medicaid program for their health care coverage; **AND**

WHEREAS, The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2006 required that all Medicaid applicants document proof of their status of Citizens of the United States **AND**

WHEREAS, This new requirement will discriminate and serve as a new barrier to access health care services which Tribes have purchased in perpetuity for their members through the cession of millions of acres of land to the United States of America ; **AND**

WHEREAS, There was not a proper consultation process to discuss the new identification requirements with Tribal governments; **AND**

WHEREAS, Proof of Tribal membership serves as sufficient documentation of US Citizenship for members of the Seneca Nation, the Kickapoo Tribe of Texas and the Navajo Nation as well as distribution lists established under the Alaska Land Claims Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: CRIHB and the NPAIHB urge the Center for Medicare and Medicaid to reopen their administrative decision affecting American Indians and the types of documentation necessary to establish proof of US Citizenship for the purposes of becoming eligible for health care services under the Medicaid program; **AND**

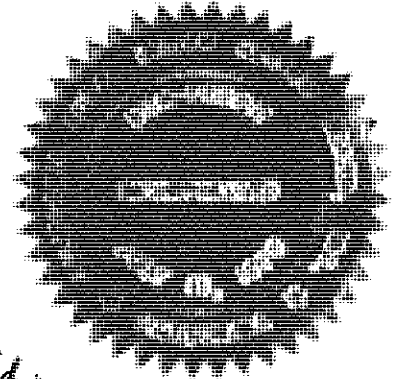
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Proof of Citizenship in an Indian Nation, Tribe, Band, Reservations, Rancheria or Pueblo issued by such an Indian Nation, Tribe, Band, Reservations, Rancheria, or Pueblo and or residing on trust or allotted land be accepted as sufficient proof of US Citizenship for the purposes of becoming eligible for health care services through the Medicaid program.

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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Spink Holt

Chairperson of the Board

Barbara K. Bird

Chairperson of the Board

Stella M. Washores

Attest

Cheri Thoms

Attest