

RESOLUTION # 09-04-02
NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

RESOLUTION # 267-07-09
CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN
HEALTH BOARD

JOINT RESOLUTION

Support of the Colville Tribe as they confront destructive impacts on ongoing underfunding of their Health Care system by the Indian Health Service

- 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**, the federal Indian Health Service (IHS) an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services is the principal agency within the US government charged with the responsibility of providing health services and improving the health status of the American Indian and Alaska Native peoples; **AND**
- WHEREAS**, the appropriations requested to carry out this responsibility originate with the IHS and are subject to review and approval of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management; **AND**
- WHEREAS**, the House Appropriations Sub Committee on the Interior and Related Agencies and the Senate Appropriations Sub Committee for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies annually appropriate funds to IHS to carry out its mission; **AND**
- WHEREAS**, An article appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Tuesday March 12, 2009 reporting the truthful and heart breaking story of the deplorable health conditions confronted by the Colville Tribe where Tribal elders are forced to choose between spending their limited funds on

transportation costs to life sustaining health services or food for their families and where the infant mortality rate has increased 44 per cent in the past decade. **AND**

WHEREAS, health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives is chronically underfunded across all of Indian country it is however important and appropriate that from time to time that we recognize the individual suffering of a single tribe as it struggles with the burdens created by the chronic underfunding of its health care system including the premature and preventable death of children and elders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that meeting in this joint session that we do recognize and acknowledge the suffering of the Colville Tribe, **AND**


THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED CRIHB and the NPAIHB do hereby urge IHS Director Yvette Roubideaux, Secretary DHHS, Kathleen Sibelius, OMB Director, Peter Orszag, House Appropriations Sub Committee Chair Norm Dicks and Senate Appropriations Sub Committee Chair Dianne Feinstein to read the article from the Seattle Post Intelligencer dated March 12, 2009 entitled Native American Death Rates Soar As Most People Live Longer and respond to the needs of the Colville Tribe through significant increases to the IHS Appropriations.

CERTIFICATION

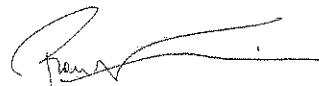
The foregoing joint resolution was adopted at a duly called regular joint meeting of the Board of Directors of Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and California Rural Indian Health Board (**NPAIHB** vote 30 For and 0 Against and 2 Abstain; **CRIHB** vote 13 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain held this 23rd day of July 2009 in Tulalip, WA and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded.

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INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**
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Chairperson of the Board



Chairperson of the Board