

**RESOLUTION # 11-04-05
NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**



**RESOLUTION # 289-07-11
CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN
HEALTH BOARD**

JOINT RESOLUTION

In Support to Protect IHS, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security

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 31 Federally recognized tribes in 21 counties through its membership of 12 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 Indian Health Service (IHS) was established by Congress through Public Law 83-568 in 1954 and authorized in 1955 to take over providing health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) from the Bureau of Indian Affairs; **AND**

WHEREAS, the provision of health services to AIAN grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes established in 1787 and is based on Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution and has been given form and substance by numerous treaties, laws, Supreme Court decisions and Executive Orders; **AND**

WHEREAS, numerous federal legislation has been authorized to ensure healthcare for AIAN, including the Snyder Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which states, "It is the policy of this Nation in fulfillment of its special responsibilities and legal obligation to the American Indian people, to assure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to *provide all resources necessary* to effect that policy"; **AND**

WHEREAS, IHS provides a health service delivery system for approximately 1.9 million AIAN who belong to 564 federally recognized tribes or receive services under the California Indian Eligibility Criteria and the agency's Fiscal Year 2010 budget was approximately \$4.1 billion; **AND**

WHEREAS, the 2010 Health and Human Services budget was \$872 billion and the amount spent on AIAN healthcare was approximately 0.5% of the department budget, if IHS was funded at the level of need of \$7 billion, the agency would still make up less than 1% of the entire department budget; **AND**

WHEREAS, the president's \$454 million increase to the 2010 IHS budget is just over half of "all resources necessary" to ensure that AIAN receive health services; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also provides federal trust responsibilities to AIAN by financing health care for AIAN in the Indian health system and has provided such services since 1976 and this support serves to prop up the Indian health system; **AND**

WHEREAS, CMS payments are critical to Indian health care, as they provide 90 percent of third party revenues for Indian health system providers; **AND**

WHEREAS, the disparity in spending on AIAN health care is amplified by the poorer health conditions of many in the AIAN communities and represents a direct affront to the legal and moral obligation the country has to improve Indian health status.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CRIHB and NPAIHB urge the president to protect IHS, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security as the beneficiaries of these programs -- working Americans, elders, the poor and AIAN-- did not create the fiscal dilemma confronting the country today and they should not be forced to pay for its resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge real solution to the deficit problem and that includes rebuilding the country's economy and creating good jobs.

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 25 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain; **CRIHB** vote 20 For and 0 Against and 0 Abstain) held this 21st day of July 2011 in Lincoln, CA and shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded.

NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

527 SW Hall, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
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Chairperson of the Board



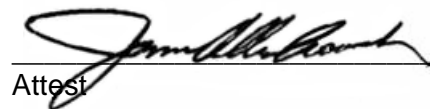
Attest

CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

4400 Auburn Blvd, 2nd Floor
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Chairperson of the Board



Attest

