



**NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD**

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

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RESOLUTION # 18-03-01

**SUPPORT FOR THE PATHWAYS INTO HEALTH: NORTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (COE) AT OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY**

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board {hereinafter "NPAIHB" or "Board" was established in 1972 to assist Tribal governments to improve the health status and quality of life of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB is a "tribal organization" as defined by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act {P.L. 93-638 seq. et al) that represents forty-three federally recognized tribes in the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the definitions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act at 25 USC §450b, a tribal organization is recognized as a governing body of any Indian tribe and includes any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the NPAIHB is to improve the health and quality of life of its member Tribes; and

WHEREAS, AI/ANs have very limited access to health care services and are disproportionately affected by health disparities and these disparities are directly attributed to the lack of health professionals in Indian communities, which has caused a serious access issue and backlog of many health services for AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, many of our member Tribes have great difficulty and face significant challenges in recruiting health professionals into their communities that results in further challenges in ensuring continuity and comprehensive healthcare for AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, the Pathways into Health: Northwest Native American Center of Excellence (NNACOE) has been in existence since 2017 as a program of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in partnership with the NPAIHB; and

WHEREAS, NPAIHB will work collaboratively to increase Native youth interest in health professionals' careers using the text messaging platform and We R Native; and

WHEREAS, NPAIHB will connect OHSU medical students interested in Native American health to existing research projects to support their scholarly project requirement; and

WHEREAS, OHSU is the only academic health center in the state of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, OHSU is one of the only universities in the U.S. devoted exclusively to educating doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and public health professionals; and

WHEREAS, OHSU School of Medicine seeks to enhance human health through programs of excellence in education, research, health and public service to the larger community including underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE recruits, trains, and retains Native American health professional students and faculty to promote and provide high quality, safe, accessible and culturally humble health care; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE trains tomorrow's health professions workforce in Native American health issues, health equity and social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE furthers tribal-academic partnerships in education and research in order to meet the research needs of tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE aims to be an effective method for diminishing the health disparities of AI/AN communities, and for promoting access to health services for AI/AN people residing in rural, remote and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE fosters recruitment and training of providers from within Tribal communities who provide patient-centered quality care that comes from providers that understand the history, culture, and language of their patients; and

WHEREAS, OHSU-NNACOE supports continuity of care in communities that face recruitment and retention challenges; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB and our member Tribes would benefit from continuation of this program and partnership with NNACOE; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB is concerned that the House Labor and Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee proposes a 55% funding cut for FY 2018 leaving funding uncertain for the NNACOE; and

WHEREAS, the NPAIHB supports level funding for HRSA Bureau of Workforce Grant Funding in FY 2019; and

WHEREAS, the HRSA is one of several federal agencies that fund or provide programs and services to Tribes and AI/AN communities that are part of the federal government's trust responsibility and treaty obligations to tribes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPAIHB requests that Congress support level funding for FY 2018 for the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce Grant funding (1D34HP31026) that supports the Native American Center of Excellence and opposes any budget cuts to this program as this is a violation of the federal government's trust responsibility and treaty obligations to tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NPAIHB requests that Congress support level funding for FY 2019 for the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce Grant funding (1D34HP31026) that supports the Native American Center of Excellence.

CERTIFICATION

NO. 18-03-01

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at the regular session of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. A quorum being established; 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstain on March 7, 2018.

Andrew C. Joseph Jr.

Chairman

March 7, 2018

Date

Guy J. Abraham

Secretary