



**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