

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution in Support of the Establishment of a Funding Stream for Tribal Medical Residency Program*

Resolution No. 16-24



Bill John Baker  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing more than 650,000 Indian people throughout the United States.



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**WHEREAS,** the ITC recognizes that American Indian people suffer greater health disparities than others living in Oklahoma. The top leading causes of death among Indians in Oklahoma are heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries and diabetes.



Gary Batton  
Chief

**WHEREAS,** the historic allocations of resources appropriated to all Indian health systems have created a disparity and underfunding for the Oklahoma Area compared to all other Areas in the United States. The Oklahoma Area has been in the bottom 25% of all Indian Health Areas and consistently rates as one of the lowest funded Areas within the IHS system.



James R. Floyd  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** Oklahoma ranks 49th in the nation in access to primary care physicians. Oklahoma does not import many physicians, we therefore, must train and retain our own primary care physicians.

**WHEREAS,** There is an urgent need in rural Indian communities for family practice physicians and many tribes have or have been approved to have medical residency programs in their Indian health systems.



Leonard M. Harjo  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** The Department of Health and Human Services currently does not have any funding stream for tribal medical residency programs in Indian Country. The funding streams that are or have been available do not have set-asides for tribes to participate which results in no funding stream to support tribal medical residency programs.

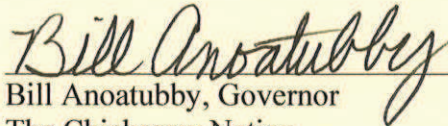
**WHEREAS,** The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes hereby request the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a start-up funding stream to include a set-aside for tribal medical residency programs in rural America.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is in support of the establishment of a funding stream for Tribal Medical Residency Program.

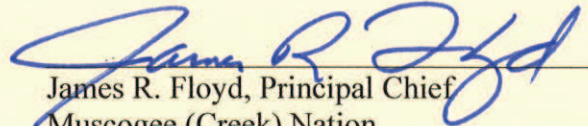
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## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Norman, Oklahoma on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



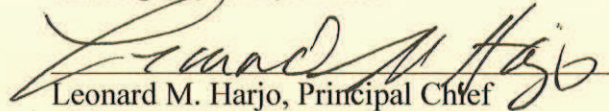
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation



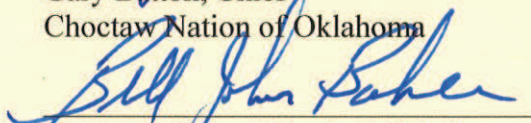
James R. Floyd, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gary Bolton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation