

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Congress to Reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

Resolution No. 20-03



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
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 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations are Indian tribes whose inherent sovereignty preexists that of the United States and who have held a historic and continual government-to-government relationship with the United States; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI), a \$150 million federal grant program that allocates funds for diabetes treatment and prevention in tribal, IHS and urban Indian health facilities, was originally authorized in 1997 and is up for congressional reauthorization on May 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, SDPI supports over three hundred (300) Indian Health Service, Tribal and urban Indian programs in thirty-five (35) states and has led to significant advances in diabetes education, prevention and treatment; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, as a direct result of SDPI, incidence rates of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) among American Indians/Alaska Natives, the highest driver of Medicare costs, were cut by 54% from 1999 to 2013. During the same time period, rates of diabetic eye disease were cut in half; and

WHEREAS, a landmark report released in 2019 by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation found that decreases in ESRD incidence as a result of SDPI saves up to \$52 million per year in Medicare expenditures; and



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, SDPI has enjoyed continual bipartisan and bicameral support since its inception; and

WHEREAS, allowing this critical program to expire for the first time since its creation due to congressional inaction creates uncertainty and insecurity that is troublesome for all of Indian Country; and

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

WHEREAS, SDPI, in part, helps fulfill the United States government's trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian tribes, which are legal obligations assumed by the federal government in exchange for millions of acres land and which include the provision of health care for Indians; and

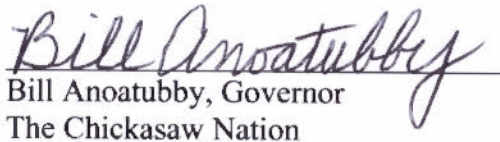
WHEREAS, SDPI must be either permanently reauthorized or reauthorized for no less than five (5) years due to its demonstrated success and universal support; and

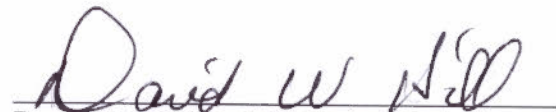
WHEREAS, despite its positive impact in Indian Country, the SDPI appropriation has not been increased beyond \$150 million for over fifteen (15) years, which has eroded purchasing power and diminished potential for improved health outcomes.


NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby urges Congress to act on the long-term reauthorization of SDPI at \$200 million annually by May 22, 2020.

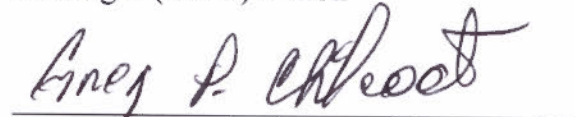
CERTIFICATION

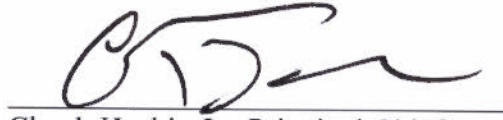
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 10th day of January, 2020, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation