

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Full Mandatory Funding of Indian Health Service

Resolution No. 21-08

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee (Creek), representing more than 780,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a trust responsibility to provide health care to Indian people and tribal nations, established under a series of treaties with tribal nations and legislatively affirmed by the Snyder Act of 1921. This right to health care for Indian people was prepaid by tribal nations through the exchange of vast parts of the land and resources of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has never fully met this trust responsibility, with federal appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) remaining far below what is necessary to meet Indian people's health care needs. In FY 2018, IHS per capita spending for patient health services was just \$3,779, compared to \$9,409 per person for health care spending nationally; and

WHEREAS, the underfunding of Indian health care has contributed to numerous health crises within tribal communities, including higher rates of infant mortality, suicides, diabetes, COVID-19 deaths, and other preventable illnesses and deaths. At the same time, aging facilities and the lack of resources to modernize equipment and health information technology has created a dire need for large investments in basic infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) estimates that an increase of IHS funding to \$48 billion is needed to meet the documented needs of tribal nations over a 12-year period, beginning with \$12.75 billion for the IHS in FY 2022; and

WHEREAS, in addition to fully funding IHS, fulfillment of the federal government's trust responsibility calls for transitioning the agency to mandatory funding like Medicare and Medicaid, so that IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian (I/T/U) health care providers do not live under the persistent threat of inadequate, lost, or delayed funding due to government shutdowns or Congress failing to pass a budget.



Chuck Hoskin Jr
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

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WHEREAS, President Joe Biden's Tribal Nations Plan recognizes that IHS has been underfunded for decades and endorses both dramatically increasing funding for IHS as well as making that funding mandatory.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to fully fund IHS at \$12.75 billion in the FY 2022 budget and continue necessary budget increases in future years to fully meet tribal nations' needs for clinical services, preventative health, and health care infrastructure in future years.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to transition IHS into a mandatory funded program so that I/T/U facilities never face the risk of shutting their doors if lawmakers fail to pass a budget on time each year.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 9th day of April, 2021, by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



David Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation