

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting Legislation Expanding Tribal Self-Governance in the Department of Health and Human Services*

### Resolution No. 21-28

**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 approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** federal trust and treaty obligations are the result of the millions of acres of land and extensive resources ceded to the United States—oftentimes by force—in exchange for which it is legally and morally obligated to provide benefits and services in perpetuity, as well as uphold Tribal sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Self-Governance; and

**WHEREAS,** the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) authorizes Tribes and Tribal organizations to be funded for, and to administer services that the Federal government would otherwise be obligated to provide due to the trust and treaty obligations of the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** other methods of federal funding, such a grants, treat Tribes as vendors or as not-for-profits instead of sovereign governments and create unnecessary barriers to services provided in fulfillment of perpetual trust and treaty obligations; and

**WHEREAS,** Self-Determination and Self-Governance under the ISDEAA have led to a significant improvement in the daily lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives because Tribes are more accountable and responsive to our people; and

**WHEREAS,** the success of the ISDEAA prompted Congress in 2000 to establish permanent Tribal Self-Governance in the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Title V of the ISDEAA; and

**WHEREAS,** Title V authorizes participating Tribes to redesign IHS programs, and redirect funds supporting those programs, in any manner that the Tribes determine is in the best interest of their communities, upholding Tribal sovereignty and Self-Determination, and better reflecting the diplomatic relationship between the U.S. and Tribes; and



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Bolton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief



Lewis Johnson  
Chief

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**WHEREAS**, in Title VI of the ISDEAA, also enacted in 2000, Congress envisioned expanding Self-Governance to include grant programs administered by other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, HHS issued a study concluding such an expansion was feasible and identifying eleven HHS programs that could be integrated into Self-Governance; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2004, the Senate considered legislation to authorize a demonstration project implementing Title VI, but that legislation was not enacted; and

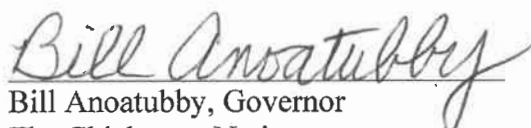
**WHEREAS**, expansion of Self-Governance within HHS is the next logical step to promote Tribal sovereignty and improve health care services, and has remained a top legislative priority of Tribes; and

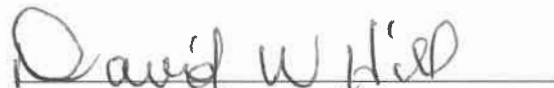
**WHEREAS**, Tribes have drafted legislation, modeled on the 2004 Senate bill, that would establish a demonstration project expanding Self-Governance to specified programs administered by non-IHS agencies within HHS;


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports the introduction and enactment of legislation establishing a demonstration project to implement Title VI of the ISDEAA.

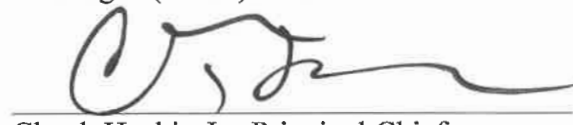
## CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 8th day of October 2021, by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ against and \_\_\_\_\_ abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

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

  
Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma