

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting the President's fiscal year 2024 budget proposal for the Indian Health Service

Resolution No. 23-12



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Bolton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson
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 Nation, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government of the United States has a unique and special relationship with First Americans to provide health care as established through the U.S. Constitution, Treaties with Indian Tribes, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and Federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, although the trust relationship requires the Federal government to provide for the health and welfare of Tribal nations, the Indian Health Service remains chronically underfunded, and First Americans suffer from among the lowest health status nationally; and

WHEREAS, the United States took an historic first step in establishing budget certainty for Indian Health Service and fulfilling its trust responsibility and treaty obligations to Tribal nations by providing advance appropriations in the fiscal year 2023 Appropriations Act. We are very thankful for this support. The fiscal year 2024 budget proposal continues to stride towards meeting the United States' trust obligation by including \$9.7 billion and mandatory funding for all Indian Health Service activities starting in fiscal year 2025. Mandatory funding will help Indian Health Service improve and ensure quality healthcare is available to First Americans.

WHEREAS, the President's fiscal year 2024 budget proposal for the Indian Health Service continues the historic trend toward honoring the United States' treaty and trust obligations to Tribal nations. The budget proposal would provide Indian Health Service funding through mandatory appropriations and includes a commitment to collaboratively develop and enhance the proposal with Tribal nations and with Congress. This commitment to collaborate with Tribal nations and ensure full and proper funding for the provision of Indian Health Service healthcare promotes Tribal self-determination and benefits our citizens. Moreover, First Americans make up approximately ten percent of Oklahoma's population, and thus Oklahoma stands to benefit from full funding of the Indian Health Service budget proposal.

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WHEREAS, the budget proposal builds on the historic passage of the advance appropriation for Indian Health Service using a two-prong approach. Most importantly, the budget proposal provides for mandatory funding to ensure Indian Health Service healthcare is adequately and assuredly funded. Tribal citizens need to be able to access the help they need when they need it, including both preventative and emergency healthcare. The budget proposal also contains specific appropriations for programs to target major healthcare issues within Indian Country. One such program is the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, which is set to expire on September 30, 2023. The budget proposal includes \$250 million for the program as part of a three-year reauthorization proposal. Diabetes is a major endemic threat to our Tribal citizens, and ensuring funding for this program is vital to the health and future of our populations.

WHEREAS, passage of the President's full fiscal year 2024 budget request for Indian Health Service would help improve the health care delivery system for our Tribal nations and our citizens; and

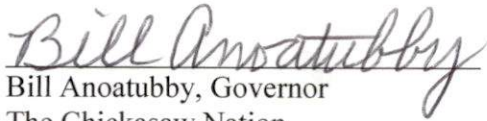
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to support the passage of the fiscal year 2024 President's Budget proposal of \$9.7 billion and mandatory funding for Tribal and IHS health programs.

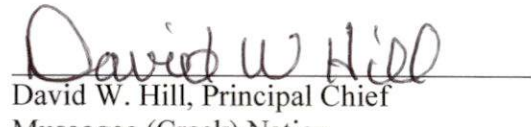
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to fulfill the U.S. trust responsibility by fully meeting tribal nations' needs for clinical services, preventative health, and health care infrastructure in current and future years.

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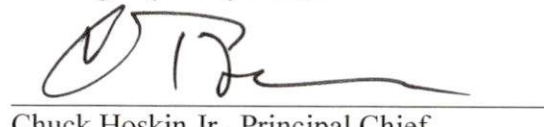
CERTIFICATION

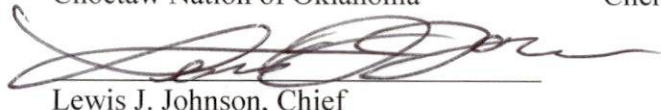
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 14th day of April, 2023, by a vote of All for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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


Gary Patton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma