

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in Requesting Support for Native Contract and Rate Expenditure Act, H.R. 4843

Resolution No. 14-19



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Principal Chief



George Tiger
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
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 over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS, Native Americans suffer disproportionately from health afflictions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, these devastating health issues are compounded by a lack of resources for healthcare delivery services in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, Indian Health Services (IHS) is continually underfunded with a budget that only meets about 59% of need; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tom Cole and Congresswoman Betty McCollum recently introduced the Native Contract and Rate Expenditure (CARE) Act, H.R. 4843 to improve access to healthcare for Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the CARE Act would require non-hospital providers to accept Medicare rates from the Purchased/Reimbursed Care (PRC) program (formerly known as Contract Health Services); and

WHEREAS, under current law, only hospital providers must accept Medicare rates from PRC, so IHS routinely pays the full-billed rate to non-hospital providers; and

WHEREAS, the practice of paying full-billed rates to non-hospital providers quickly diminishes funds; and


WHEREAS, in a 2013 report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that IHS and tribal healthcare facilities would be able to provide millions of dollars in additional care to our people under the proposed CARE Act.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on behalf of our people, and in the interest of long, healthy lives for our children and grandchildren, we urge the passage of the Native Contract and Rate Expenditure (CARE) Act, H.R. 4843.


CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 11th day of July, 2014, by a vote of all in favor for none against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation