

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution in Support of Maintaining Oklahoma Medicaid Services to Indian Health and Exempting I/T/U Services from Reductions*

### Resolution No. 14-20



Bill John Baker  
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



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**WHEREAS,** the ITC recognizes that American Indian people suffer greater health disparities than others living in Oklahoma. The top leading causes of death among Indians in Oklahoma are heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries and diabetes; and



Gary Batton  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** the historic allocations of resources appropriated to all Indian health systems have created a disparity and underfunding for Indian healthcare in Oklahoma Area compared to all other Areas in the United States. The Oklahoma Area has been in the bottom 25% of all Indian Health Areas and consistently rates as one of the lowest funded Areas within the IHS system (currently 3rd lowest); and



George Tiger  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** the Oklahoma Health Care Authority is considering reducing, limiting or eliminating certain Medicaid services in Oklahoma in order to operate within a declining budget, due in part to a reduction in the Federal match of approximately \$50 million per year to the State of Oklahoma; and



Leonard M. Harjo  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** reductions in Medicaid services directly affect available resources for critical health care systems operated by Tribes and the IHS; and

**WHEREAS,** Medicaid services rendered at Indian Health Service Facilities, Tribal Facilities and Urban Indian Facilities (I/T/Us) are reimbursed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to the State at 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) with no State match; and


**WHEREAS,** services provided at an I/T/U are at no cost to the State, and if Medicaid services are eliminated or reduced it would generate no State savings and would not assist in meeting the budget shortfall; and


**WHEREAS,** the intended goal of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority is not advanced by elimination of services to Medicaid covered individuals receiving their services in I/T/U facilities, and therefore, these reductions should not be applied to Medicaid services received in I/T/Us.


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** the ITC supports maintaining the current levels of covered Medicaid services to individuals receiving services in I/T/Us contracted with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and requests that I/T/U facilities be exempt from any reduction of Medicaid services provided by such facilities.


**CERTIFICATION**

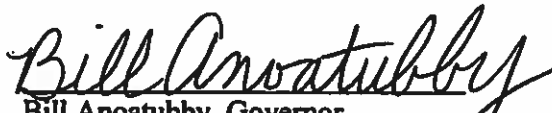
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014, by a vote of All in favor for none against and 0 abstentions.

  
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

  
George Tiger, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

  
Gary Baxton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation