

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in Support of H.R. 592/S. 314 The Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act

Resolution No. 15-33



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, 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

WHEREAS, the historic allocations of resources appropriated to all Indian health systems have created a disparity and underfunding for the 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; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would recognize pharmacists as non-physician providers under Medicare Part B and make them eligible for reimbursement for services they provide to seniors in underserved areas.

WHEREAS, this legislation seeks to increase access and improve quality of care by enabling pharmacists to provide patient care services as consistent with their education, training and license. Enabling pharmacists to practice at the top of their education and training, and get better integrated into the patient's health care team, will improve health outcomes and greatly benefit our populations; and

WHEREAS, this legislation promotes increased access to care for underserved beneficiaries in Medically Underserved Areas, Medically Underserved Populations, and Health Professional Shortage Areas, as designated by the Health Resources Services Administration. As the shortage of primary care physicians increases, so too will the challenges that patients in underserved communities face, especially those related to access. This legislation can help address provider shortages and access issues in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this legislation promotes cost-effective health care by increasing access

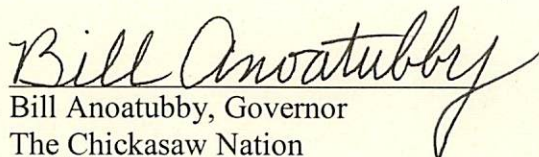
to care and opportunities for early intervention at cost-effective settings so as to minimize long-term health care costs such as those associated with preventable higher-cost conditions; and

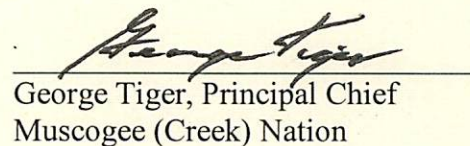
WHEREAS, the ITC supports the passage of H.R. 592/S. 314, The Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act to recognize pharmacists as non-physician providers under Medicare Part B and make them eligible for reimbursement for services they provide to seniors served in our health systems.

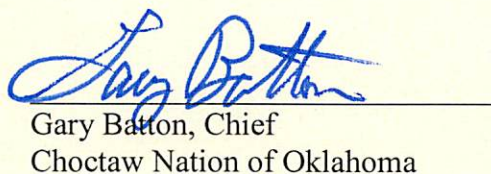
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the ITC is in support of the passage of H.R. 592/S. 314, The Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act.

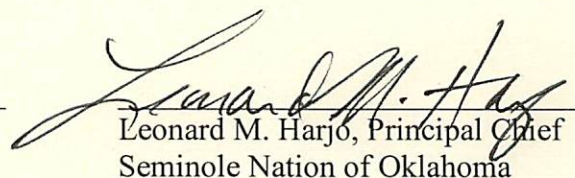
CERTIFICATION

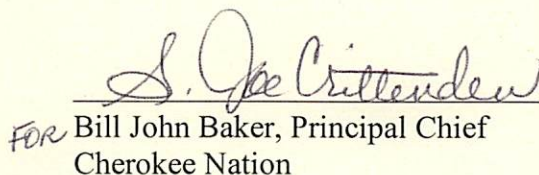
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 9th day of October, 2015, by a vote of all in favor 0 against and 0 abstentions.


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


FOR Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation