

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in Opposition to Transitioning from the Indian Health Service/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement Program to a Standard Reimbursement Agreement

Resolution No. 16-28



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 more than 650,000 Indian people throughout the United States.



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.



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans are eligible for healthcare services from both the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, The IHS and the VA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing between the VA and the IHS to improve the health status of AI/AN veterans; and



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the goal of the MOU is to foster an environment that brings together the strengths and expertise of each organization to actively improve the care and services provided by both; and

WHEREAS, 25 U.S. Code § 1645(c) states, The Service, Indian tribe, or tribal organization shall be reimbursed by the Department of Veterans Affairs where services are provided through the Service, an Indian tribe, or a tribal organization to beneficiaries eligible for services from either such Department, notwithstanding any other provision of law; and



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, through the IHS/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreements, AI/AN veterans have been able to receive quality health care services at local IHS and Tribal health care facilities, which are often much more accessible and conveniently located than the nearest VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA recently initiated Tribal consultation on consolidating its health care programs, including its IHS and Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement Program into one standard program, using a standard reimbursement rate; and


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WHEREAS, The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes acknowledges the consolidation of the IHS/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreements into standard reimbursement agreements would cause unnecessary pre-approvals, obstruct the continuity of care for AI/AN veterans and infringe on IHS and Tribal authority under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; and

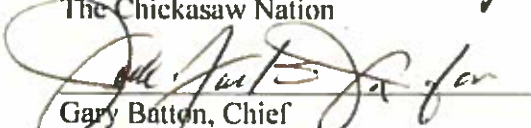
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is in opposition to transitioning from the IHS/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreements to standard reimbursement agreements.

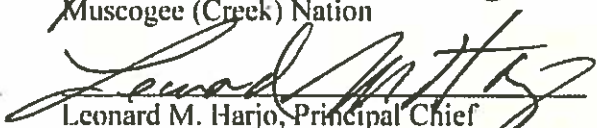
CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 14th day of October, 2016, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batten, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation