



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

Resolution 06-01

Adopted April 12, 2006

WE, THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, URGE THE STATE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR URBAN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES IN THE 2007 FEDERAL BUDGET TO AVERT A HEALTH CRISIS.

WHEREAS, the President in his 2007 Budget has proposed to terminate all funding for Urban Indian Health Programs and Clinics under “Major Savings and Reforms,” and

WHEREAS, this unilateral decision to terminate all funding for Urban Indian Health Programs has been made without consultation with the American Indian communities, the states, the Urban Indian Health Centers and the patients served by those programs; and

WHEREAS, federal policy in the 1950s and 1960s moved Indian people off reservations resulting in lack of health care for tribal people in urban areas, necessitating the adoption of PL 94-437 (Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act), enabling the establishment of health care programs addressing urban American Indians.

WHEREAS, Urban Natives experience severe health disparities and suffer significantly higher disease burdens of serious health conditions such as diabetes, tuberculosis, depression and suicide rates than the general population; and

WHEREAS, no research has been done which would support the efficacy of this proposal to terminate all funding for Urban Indian Health Programs; and

WHEREAS, in Washington State, 65 percent of all American Indians live in urban areas such as Seattle and Spokane and more than 10,500 Indian people in Washington State receive health care at the Seattle Indian Health Board and Spokane’s NATIVE Project; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of urban American Indians are ineligible to receive health care on their reservations, have no health care insurance, and rely on Urban Indian Health Programs to access their medical, dental and behavioral health needs, and urban Indian health clinics have established comprehensive primary care clinics that provide culturally appropriate, easily accessible, cost-effective, and outcome-based services for tribal people in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, all other urban health care providers such as community health clinics and hospital emergency rooms are already overloaded with uninsured patients who have no access to alternative healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the President's decision to terminate funding for Urban Indian Health Programs will place an inequitable burden on the taxpayers of Washington State and the remaining healthcare providers by eliminating \$9 million worth of health care to patients the Urban Indian Health Programs serve in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the country's obligation to fund health services for American Indian beneficiaries is founded in treaty and statute and supported by the Constitution of the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the state of Washington Board of Health that the Washington State congressional delegation is hereby requested to urge the Congress of the United States to maintain funding for Urban Indian Health Services in the 2007 Federal Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Washington, the Washington State Secretary of Health, the State of Washington American Indian Health Commission, the Portland Area Indian Health Board, the members of Washington's Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Indian Health Service.