

National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board Resolution 17-09

OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2018 BUDGET REQUEST

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), established in 1972, serves all Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the Federal government's trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the unmet health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives are severe and the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives is far below that of the general population of the United States, resulting in an average life expectancy for American Indians and Alaska Natives 4.5 years less than that for the U.S. all races population; and

WHEREAS, the public health capacity and infrastructure in Indian Country lags far behind the rest of the United States and federal investment into Tribal public health systems is already far behind and below investment in all other sectors of the public health system; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's trust responsibility for the provision of health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives spans the entire federal government; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2018 President's budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services cuts the agency funding by \$12.4 billion with major reductions across the department; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) serves as the primary health care provider for 2.2 million AI/ANs; and

WHEREAS, the IHS is funded by Congress at less than half of expected need leading to rationed care and worse health outcomes for AI/ANs; and

WHEREAS, Per capita spending for IHS is only \$2,834 per person and it is \$9,990 for health care spending nationally; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2018 Budget Request contains \$300 million in cuts to the IHS with reductions in almost every category which, will mean less services and poorer health for AI/ANs; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is cut by \$1.3 billion and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is cut by \$400 million in the President's budget which represents a significant funding source for many Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the President's budget request proposes a \$610 billion cut in Medicaid spending which is also a significant source of the IHS budget and Tribal health program spending; and

WHEREAS, if these cuts were enacted, the health services provided to AI/ANs would be greatly diminished and would result in loss of life for AI/ANs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Health Board stands in opposition of the FY 2018 President's Budget Request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Health Board calls on Congress to fund the IHS at \$7.1 billion in FY 2018 which is consistent with the request of the IHS Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Health Board opposes any cuts to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will have a negative impact on American Indian and Alaska Native Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Indian Health Board requests that the Administration engage in Nation-to-Nation Tribal Consultation on any proposed cuts to funding that affect American Indian and Alaska Native health, health systems, public health or public health infrastructure; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the National Indian Health Board stands ready to work with the Administration to achieve a budget proposal that honors the Trust relationship between the President of the United States and his Administration and the nation's 567 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution of the National Indian Health Board's Board of Directors composed of 8 members present, constituting a quorum, at a meeting duly held on the 30th Day of May, 2017 was adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 FOR and 1 AGAINST (Navajo Area), with 0 ABSTENTIONS



Vinton Hawley
Chairman

ATTEST:



Lisa Elgin
Recording Secretary