

# National Indian Health Board



## National Indian Health Board Resolution 16-04

### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 FUNDING LEVEL OF \$210 MILLION FOR CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL OFFICE ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

**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 4.2 years less than that for the U.S. all races population; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic allocation of resources appropriated to the Indian health system has created a disparity and underfunding for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco use is disproportionately high within Tribal communities across the nation and this funding supports crucial tobacco cessation programs, including tobacco prevention and tobacco quit lines. American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have higher smoking prevalence than any other racial or ethnic subgroups, with 29.2 percent of adults and 24.6 percent of youth being active smokers. Recognizing the impact tobacco use has on the Native American population; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in tobacco prevention at the state and federal levels has proven successful in reducing tobacco-related death and disease. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) tobacco prevention work is a vital component of the effort to help adult tobacco users quit and prevent young people from starting the habit; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 funding of the CDC Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) will allow the highly successful and cost-effective *Tips from Former Smokers* Campaign to continue. During a nine-week phase of the campaign in 2014, 1.8 million Americans were motivated to make a quit attempt and 104,000 smokers quit; and

**WHEREAS**, in FY 2015, the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee proposed a 50% cut to OSH, which would have had a catastrophic impact on the work that OSH does. Thankfully, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not have such a cut in their proposed bill and after final negotiations; there was only a 3% cut. Because of what happened last year, we are concerned another significant cut might be proposed; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the NIHB supports maintaining the Fiscal Year 2016 funding level of CDC OSH.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD,** that this resolution hereby affirms our support of maintaining the Fiscal Year 2016 funding level of CDC OSH.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 2016.



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Lester Secatero,  
Chairperson

**ATTEST:**



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Lisa Elgin,  
Recording Secretary