RESOLUTION NO. 14.08.13

SUPPORT FOR A DENTAL THERAPIST PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. ("ENIPC"), is comprised of the Northern New Mexico Pueblos of Taos, Picuris, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe and Tesuque; and

WHEREAS: The ENIPC Board of Governors is comprised of appointed and elected Tribal Governors from the respective Eight Northern Pueblo Tribes; and

WHEREAS: ENIPC is established to provide community-based services in the areas of education, employment and training, behavioral health, domestic violence counseling, senior services, environmental support services, child care providing, commodity distribution, woman and infant services, and administrative support services; and

WHEREAS: There is a present unmet need for dental care among our Indian people and part of the problem is the lack of skilled dental labor workforce servicing our Native American patient population on our reservations and in the off-reservations urban areas; and

WHEREAS: Our Pueblo Tribes are sovereign nations and have a right to seek healthcare resources to serve the healthcare and dental needs of our Pueblo people; and

WHEREAS: New Mexico doesn’t have enough dentists. As a result, thousands of New Mexicans cannot get dental care when they need it, where they live. This includes working families and children in rural, tribal and underserved communities, as well as elders and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of New Mexicans, many of them children, elders, persons with disabilities, and working families do not have access to quality, affordable dental care; and

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"Promote, facilitate and improve programs to meet the unique needs of Pueblo people……"
WHEREAS: A model Dental Therapist program has been in existence, and has been thoroughly evaluated for safety, quality, and appropriate scope of practice in Alaska with the Alaska Native patient population in collaboration with Indian Health Service and the Alaska Native Tribes and others; and

WHEREAS: The Dental Therapist has received high results and accolades from patients, health care professionals and community leaders in the U.S. and in over 50 other countries; and

WHEREAS: New Mexico has the talents and the means to replicate and sustain this model with existing training institutions and communities that are in need of this program; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: that we, the Eight Northern Pueblo Governors endorse and support this program to be fully approved under New Mexico law as early as the 2015 New Mexico legislative session.

CERTIFICATION
We hereby certify that Resolution No. 14.08.13 was considered and adopted at the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc., Board of Governors meeting held on August 19, 2014 at which a quorum was present. The vote was ___ in favor, ___ opposed, ___ abstained and ___ absent.

Signed this 19th day of August, 2014.

[Signatures]
Governor J. Michael Chevarria
Pueblo of Santa Clara, ENIPC Chairman

Governor J. Robert Mora
Pueblo of Tesuque ENIPC, Vice Chairman

Governor Phillip A. Perez
Pueblo of Nambe

Governor George Rivera
Pueblo of Pojoaque

Governor Richard Marmemo
Pueblo of Picuris

Governor Terry Aguilar
Pueblo of San Ildefonso

Governor Marcelino Aguiño
Ohkay Owingeh

Attest: Gil Vigil, ENIPC Executive Director