

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23<sup>RD</sup> Navajo Nation Council - Third Year, 2017

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI';  
SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF  
ARIZONA FOR LICENSURE AND PRACTICE FOR DENTAL THERAPISTS

WHEREAS:

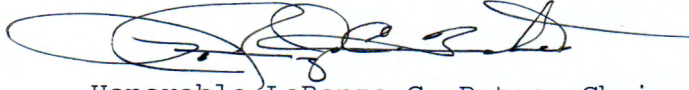
- A. Access to dental care is a concern for American Indians. In Arizona, 76% of American Indian children have a history of tooth decay. Nationwide two-thirds of American Indians aged 35 to 49 have untreated decay, more than twice the rate among all adults in the general U.S. population. In many rural areas of the state of Arizona, including Indian communities, dentists are scarce. See attached Exhibit "A," Sunrise Application of Dental Care for Arizona.
- B. The state of Arizona currently does not license dental therapists. A.R.S. §32-1202; Dental Practice Act, A.R.S. Chapter 11.
- C. Dental therapists are midlevel providers, similar to nurse practitioners and physician assistants in medicine. Generally, such therapists provide preventive and routine restorative care. They work with dentists to expand high-quality dental care to more patients, provide treatment to the underserved at-risk populations. See Exhibit "A."
- D. Dental Care for Arizona has submitted an application seeking authority for the licensure of dental therapists in Arizona. Exhibit "A." The Inter Tribal Association of Arizona supports this application. See Exhibit "B"
- E. There exists a need to expand basic dental care in Arizona to include preventive and routine restorative care. Authorizing licensing of dental therapists in Arizona will allow their services to be provided in Indian Health Service and Tribal dental facilities within the state. 25 U.S.C. § 16161(d)(3)(A).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation supports and recommends statutory authority in the state of Arizona for licensure and practice for dental therapists. The Nation supports Dental Care for Arizona in respect to its Sunrise Application for this purpose, as reflected in Exhibit "A" hereof.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of in 13 favor and 0 oppose, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.



Honorable Lorenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Second: Honorable Jonathan Perry