

# National Indian Health Board

## National Indian Health Board Resolution 18-07

### **OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL FOR MOVING THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS FROM MANDATORY TO DISCRETIONARY FUNDING AS OUTLINED IN THE FY2019 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST**

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

**WHEREAS**, AI/AN adults are 2.4 times as likely as white adults to be diagnosed with diabetes; and were 2.7 times more likely to be diagnosed with end stage renal disease than non-Hispanic whites; and

**WHEREAS**, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI), since 1997, has been enormously successful in reducing the rates of diabetes in Indian Country and reducing the complications due to diabetes with End Stage Renal Disease ending by 54% and dropping A1C levels by a whole percentage point among AI/ANs; and

**WHEREAS**, SDPI currently provides essential program funding to over 300 Tribal grantees in 35 states and;

**WHEREAS**, SDPI has always been authorized as mandatory appropriations which has created program stability and insulated it from funding cuts, sequestration or reallocations by the Indian Health Service; and

**WHEREAS**, the President's FY 2019 Budget Request to Congress proposed to move SDPI and other health programs out of mandatory funding and into discretionary funding without giving rationale or a path toward sustaining funding; and

**WHEREAS**, NIHB and the Tribes have long-supported moving the entire IHS budget to mandatory funding, because the treaty agreements Tribal Nations made with the United States are not discretionary; and

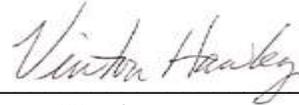
**WHEREAS**, it is unclear how moving SDPI to discretionary spending would impact the overall IHS funding, and the proposal does not identify any additional allocation to the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Indian Health Board opposes the proposal to move SDPI from mandatory to discretionary spending and;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the National Indian Health Board requests the Administration immediately withdraw this proposal to move SDPI to the discretionary budget.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018 by affirmative vote of 11 FOR and 0 AGAINST with 1 ABSTENTION (Alaska Area).



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Vinton Hawley  
NIHB Chairperson

**ATTEST:**



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Lisa Elgin  
NIHB Secretary