

National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board Resolution 12 - 03

Support for the Reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians

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 AI/AN are faced with the highest rates of type 2 diabetes in the United States, 2.8 times higher than the U.S; and

WHEREAS, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) was created by Congress in 1997 to address the disproportionate burden of type 2 diabetes on Indian populations; and

WHEREAS, SDPI has become our nation's most strategic and effective federal initiative to combat diabetes and its complications; and

WHEREAS the SDPI is producing a significant return on the federal investment such as the mean total cholesterol level has decreased by 16% from 1997-2009, and mean LDL ("bad" cholesterol) has been reduced 20%; the mean blood sugar level (A1c) has decreased 11% - from 9.0% in 1996 to 7.9% in 2009; and new cases of diabetes-related dialysis in AI/ANs decreased 31% between 1999-2007, while remaining relatively unchanged in whites and blacks; and

WHEREAS today, the program supports over 450 Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban programs; and

WHEREAS, SDPI is unique because it provides a mandatory funding stream to supplement annually appropriated dollars; and

WHEREAS, Congress has renewed the program five times, and funding has increased from an initial \$30 million per year to the current level of \$150 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the SDPI is set to expire at the end of FY 2013; and

WHEREAS it has taken the Tribes several years to build the staffing and intellectual capacity to adequately conduct successful SDPI programs, and



WHEREAS, loss of this program would create permanent loss of this capacity and attendance ability to care for diabetics and prevention of diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the NIHB requested input from the 566 federally recognized Tribes to develop an unified Tribal position on the upcoming reauthorization of the SDPI; and

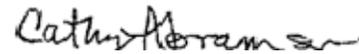
WHEREAS, the Tribes determined and are asking that Congress reauthorize the SDPI for five years at a level of \$200 million annually.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the National Indian Health Board respectfully requests that Congress reauthorize the SDPI for five years at \$200 million annually; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding provided by the SDPI be subject to contracting requirements of P.L. 93-638.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 22nd day of June 2012.



Chairperson, Cathy Abramson

ATTEST:



Secretary, H. Sally Smith