

National Indian Health Board



National Indian Health Board Resolution 16-06

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 592/S. 314 THE PHARMACY AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS ENHANCEMENT ACT

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, this legislation would recognize pharmacists as non-physician providers under Medicare Part B and make them eligible for reimbursement for services they provide to seniors in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this legislation seeks to increase access and improve quality of care by enabling pharmacists to provide patient care services as consistent with their education, training, and license. Enabling pharmacists to practices at the top of their education and training, and get better integrated into the patient's health care team, will improve health outcomes and greatly benefit our populations; and

WHEREAS, this legislation promotes increased access to care for underserved beneficiaries in Medically Underserved Areas, Medically Underserved Populations, and Health Professional Shortage Areas, as designated by the Health Resources Services Administration. As the shortage of primary care physicians increases, so too will the challenges that patients in underserved communities face, especially those related to access. This legislation can help address provider shortages and access issues in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, this legislation promotes cost-effective health care by increasing access to care and opportunities for early intervention at cost-effective settings so as to minimize long-term health care costs such as those associated with preventable higher-cost conditions; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NIHB supports the passage of H.R. 592/S. 314, the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act to recognize pharmacists as non-physician providers under Medicare Part B and make them eligible for reimbursement for services they provide to seniors served in our health systems.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, that this resolution hereby affirms our support of H.R. 592/S. 314 the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Area Enhancement Act.

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



Lester Secatero,
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Lisa Elgin,
Recording Secretary