

# National Indian Health Board



## National Indian Health Board Resolution 18-22

### **Request for an Improvement in the Reporting of American Indian and Alaska Native Data Currently Collected by the American Community Survey (ACS) of the US Census**

**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**, Tribes have a unique government-to-government relationship with the federal government, and it is required that the federal government consult with Tribes before major policy changes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Nations are political, sovereign entities whose status stems from the inherent sovereignty they possess as self-governing people predating the founding of the United States, and since its founding the United States has recognized them as such and entered into treaties with them on that basis; and,

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 13175 sets forth clear definitions and frameworks for consultation, policymaking and accountability to ensure that consultation with Indian Tribes is meaningful; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Census is an agency within the Department of Commerce that produces data on the nation's population and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Community Survey is the annual Survey of the US Census that replaced the long form of the every ten year, decennial census; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Community Survey interviews approximately 16,000 American Indian and Alaska Native households and approximately 64,000 members of these households; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Community Survey is utilized for many purposes including the distribution of federal grants where population is part of the distribution formula; and



**WHEREAS**, the American Community Survey supplements the Administrative Data found in Medicare and Medicaid databases of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with data that is typically more current; and

**WHEREAS**, the current format of the publicly available reports prioritizes one-race population estimates and does not include reporting with available data that would include the majority of American Indian and Alaska Natives, over 50% of whom report they are American Indian and Alaska Native *and* another race; and

**WHEREAS**, the Census priority for one-race population estimates uniquely impacts American Indian and Alaska Native data reporting since most counties and many states do not meet the required 65,000 person threshold for reporting of the one-year ACS estimates, nor the 20,000 person threshold for the supplemental reports for most geographies ; and

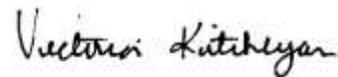
**WHEREAS**, the Census does collect American Indian and Alaska Native “Alone and in Combination with more than one race” data, but in most cases does not report it in publicly accessible tables and its Supplemental and Summarized reports despite its availability,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of NIHB formally requests that the US Census add to all its publicly available reports American Indian and Alaska Native Alone and In Combination with more than one race wherever that population meets US Census thresholds for public release; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the US Census incorporate the input of tribes in ensuring that the questions asked in the American Community Survey (ACS) are valid and reliable in the context of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

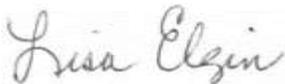
#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018



**Vice-Chair, Victoria Kitcheyan**

**ATTEST:**



**Recording Secretary, Lisa Elgin**