

RESOLUTION NO. _____

TITLE:

Whereas, the CHIP program as enacted in Wisconsin (called BadgerCare), is an I U 5 Waived program based upon the entire family and not just the children, and

Whereas, this means that BadgerCare as enacted contains a variable but sizeable premium co-pay for some American Indian Families, and

Whereas, concerns about the CHIP premiums co-pay were first discussed as early as 1997, with the state of Wisconsin noting as it sought HCFA approval of its waiver that special procedures would be considered for American Indian people, and

Whereas, in May of 1998 the GLITC Board in Resolution 98-5.10 requested that "the premium co-payment under BadgerCare for otherwise low income working Indian families be removed" and

Whereas, the reasons for this concern were expressed in an August 12, 1998 letter to the HCFA Medicaid Bureau in Baltimore, particularly that the premium co-pay would prevent participation by American Indian people, and

Whereas, similar comments were also provided through a Region V. Office of Minority Health-sponsored series of meetings with Bemidji Area Tribes, and

Whereas, this concern was also expressed to HCFA representatives by Tribal leaders at a March 15-16 1999, HCFA Tribal meeting in Madison, and

Whereas, the March 15-16 meeting was followed by the submission of written comments to HCFA describing the concern, as formally approved by GLITC Board resolution, and

Whereas, by July of 1999 the State planned to utilize Tribal gaming revenues in the amount of up to \$300,000 in the 2000-01 Fiscal Year, received by the State under compacts, to pay the premium co-pay for American Indian people, but still retain the co-pay in the waived program, and

Whereas, GLITC Board preferences were also shared with the Secretary Shalala's office in July, 1999, and

Whereas, it was preferred that the co-pay be removed from the waived plan entirely, but the State preferred to leave it in the Plan and pay for the co-pay on behalf of American Indian people through the new state budget line item, and

Whereas, in order to implement this mechanism the state felt they needed a determination from HCFA that there could be no cost sharing for American Indian people under CHIP, and

Whereas, when HCFA's notification was issued in October that there could be no cost-sharing in CHIP, it was issued for American Indian children only, and

Whereas, because the HCFA ruling only covered cost-sharing for children and because the state's Plan is for the family, there has been a reluctance by the state to cover the entire family premium co-pay using the \$300,000 fund, and

Whereas, a modification plan submitted by the state is currently being considered by HCFA which would only discount the premium co-pay, and

Whereas, such a modified plan would not fully address concerns expressed by the GLITC Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the HCFA be encouraged to work with the State of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Tribes to find a mutually agreeable solution to this current situation in Wisconsin, and

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED, that cost sharing in CHIP and other similar federally-funded program administered by states be eliminated for all American Indian people.

CERTIFICATION

The forgoing resolution was adopted unanimously (or by a vote of ____ for and ____ against) at the National Indian Health Board meeting on _____ in _____ with a quorum present.

H. Sally Smith, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Deanna Bauman, Secretary