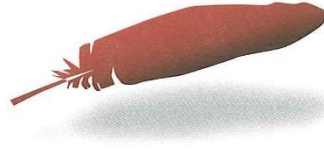


# National Indian Health Board



## National Indian Health Board Resolution 23 – 04

### Support for Indigenous Determinants of Health and a National Plan for Tribal Health

**WHEREAS** the National Indian Health Board, established in 1972, serves all Federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to American Indians and Alaska Natives, as well as upholding the federal government’s trust responsibility to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS** health inequities continue to worsen and life expectancy for American Indians and Alaska Natives has declined, now nearly 11 years lower than for the overall American population; and

**WHEREAS** complex protective and risk factors contribute to the health outcomes that Indigenous people, including American Indians and Alaska Natives, experience; and

**WHEREAS** all Indigenous peoples’ interactions and connections to social life and environmental elements are substantially distinct from those of all other populations around the globe; and

**WHEREAS** colonization has created a compounded negative effect that permeates and interlinks across all cultural, political, socioeconomic and biopsychological circumstances for Indigenous peoples and communities; and

**WHEREAS** Indigenous frameworks, knowledge, and ways of being cannot simply be classified as social determinants of health, because they are not limited to social constructs, but also include physical, spiritual, mental, emotional, transgenerational, and other factors that influence the health of Indigenous peoples; and

**WHEREAS** reducing health inequities and protecting health for American Indians and Alaska Natives will require renewed investment in the strengths, cultural resources, and communities of Tribes; and

**WHEREAS** the National Indian Health Board was a contributing author to the [2023 report on Indigenous Determinants of Health](#) produced by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) about these matters; and

**WHEREAS** addressing health inequities faced by American Indians and Alaska Natives will require dedicated focus on Indigenous determinants like those described in the UNPFII report, including Indigeneity, intergenerational holistic healing, the health of mother earth, and decolonizing and re-Indigenizing culture; and

**WHEREAS** in May 2023 the World Health Assembly governing the World Health Organization (WHO) [adopted Resolution A76/A/CONF./1 “The Health of Indigenous Peoples,”](#) which calls on member states to develop, fund, and implement national plans for Indigenous health, among other essential actions to address Indigenous-specific determinants of health and advance health equity; and

**WHEREAS** the United States is a member state of the United Nations and the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS,** within the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, the Congress of the United States declared that “it is the policy of this Nation, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligations to Indians to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy;” and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the National Indian Health Board supports the UNPFII Indigenous Determinants of Health Report and the 2023 World Health Organization Resolution on the Health of Indigenous Peoples; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Indian Health Board does hereby urge the United States government to carry out the actions described in the WHO Resolution on the Health of Indigenous Peoples as necessary steps for member states to take to advance health equity for Indigenous Peoples; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Indian Health Board urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to recognize and adopt an appropriate framework for Tribal Determinants of Health, in consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Indian Health Board does hereby urge the United States government to develop and implement a national plan for Tribal health, in consultation with Tribes, and supported by sufficient funding to achieve health equity and ensure the health and wellness of American Indians and Alaska Natives for the next seven generations.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this resolution shall be the policy of the National Indian Health Board until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board, with quorum present, on the 22nd day of June, 2023.



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Chairperson, William Smith

ATTEST:



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Vice Chairperson, Nickolaus Lewis