



**National Indian Health Board
Resolution 25 – 01**

SUPPORT FOR THE PERMANENT EXPANSION OF TELEHEALTH

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, telehealth services allow for healthcare providers and patients to interact at great distances, while maintaining treatment plans, healthcare visits, and continuity of care; and

WHEREAS, Indian Country exists across some of the United States' most rural, frontier, and remote areas and great distances to care can limit access to primary and specialist care; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and Tribal organizations have led on the development and adoption of telehealth and continue to bring new innovative telehealth methods to both urban hubs and rural Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, telehealth services can connect Tribal citizens to timely, culturally competent care and lead to better health outcomes for both medical and behavioral health conditions; and

WHEREAS, investments in broadband capacity across Indian Country will allow for greater delivery of telehealth services to American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and third-party healthcare coverage provide important resources to support the Indian health system; and

WHEREAS, coverage of telehealth services by Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and third-party healthcare coverage support access to services, support resourcing of the Indian health system, and keeps Elders and patients closer to home; and

WHEREAS, telehealth has increased in the last several years, is highly popular, and is a critical tool to improving the health and wellbeing of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Health Board supports the extension of Medicare telehealth coverage adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow for increased access to services across Indian Country; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the permanent adoption of telehealth coverage across federal healthcare coverage programs including Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER 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 a quorum present, on the 11th day of March 2025.

ATTEST:



Vice Chairperson, Sam Moose



Chairperson, William Smith