



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-09

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support Medicaid Expansion for Every State

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the issues and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety, and welfare of our Elders, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NICOA was established in 1976 by Tribal Leaders to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services, and economic wellbeing for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders. NICOA submits to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) this resolution passed by its members at their biennial meeting on September 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court upheld the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, but made Medicaid expansion optional to each state. According to an October, 2013 Kaiser Family Foundation Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured report, Medicaid expansion would provide health care insurance for an estimated 2,279,100 low income American Indian and Alaska Natives across the country, significantly reducing the number of uninsured individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) remains historically underfunded and is unable to meet the health care needs of the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, a coverage gap exists in the 21 states that as of July, 2014, have not chosen to expand Medicaid to meet the needs of those with little or no health insurance. Many of these states have some of the highest AI/AN populations. Key states include Oklahoma, Texas, North Carolina, Florida and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the 26 states that have chosen to expand Medicaid and applaud their concern for the health of their citizens; and

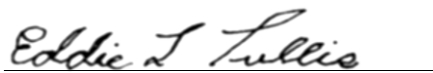
WHEREAS, the New England Journal of Medicine reported: "State Medicaid expansions to cover low-income adults were significantly associated with reduced mortality as well as improved coverage, access to care, and self-reported health"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NICOA Elders hereby support the expansion of Medicaid in the remaining 24 states when the decision comes before the Governors and state legislative leaders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of NICOA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution was passed before a duly called meeting of the National Indian Council on Aging membership on 5, September 2014, in Phoenix, AZ, at which a quorum was present.


Chairman