



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-12

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support the Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act

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, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources. SSI is for people age 65 and older, as well as blind or disabled people of any age, including children; and

WHEREAS, over 50 percent of the AI/AN population aged 62-67 are projected to have some work limitation. Research has shown that adult AI/ANs are more likely to receive Supplemental Security Income and less likely to receive Social Security benefits. These numbers are projected to increase; and

WHEREAS, for about 60% of recipients, the SSI program is their only source of income. The maximum benefit is little more than \$700 a month. The financial constraints are so stiff that a growing number of older SSI recipients are homeless; and


WHEREAS, the Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act has been introduced both in the Senate (S.2089) and the House. (H.R.1601). This Act would update provisions in the program which are out of date concerning earned income, general income, and resources. It would also help the Social Security Administration streamline the claims process; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders do hereby support passage of S. 2089 and H.R. 1601 to support vulnerable AI/ANs and provide a more secure quality of life; 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