



NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2016 – 04

TITLE: NICOA Elders Advocate to Raise Awareness for Elder Abuse Prevention

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, 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 (AI/AN) Elders; and

WHEREAS, NICOA is aware that elder abuse is occurring across Indian Country. Elders are harassed, threatened, physically harmed or otherwise subjected to abuse, neglect and exploitation within and outside reservation boundaries; and

WHEREAS, NICOA recognizes the detrimental effects that elder abuse, neglect and exploitation has on all Native Elders and those who care for them; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse poses a major health problem to Indian Country. Elder abuse has a long lasting effect on Elders who directly experience abuse, neglect, and exploitation and carry the scars of the abuse. NICOA believes elder abuse can be prevented and reduced through education, the intervention of law enforcement and through creative solutions such as family group decision making; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders hereby requests that NICOA Board of Directors advocate to raise awareness of elder abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the membership of NICOA hereby requests that the NICOA Board of Directors establish a committee which includes NICOA Elders to focus on promising solutions to address the negative impacts of elder abuse, and that the committee share their recommendations widely.

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NICOA Board of Directors will continue advocacy efforts around elder abuse with the Administration for Community Living, Department of Justice, and other federal agencies.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution was passed before a duly called meeting of the National Indian Council on Aging.