



NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2016 – 05

TITLE: NICOA Elders support the Tribal Law and Order Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2016

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. NICOA submits to the National Indian Congress of American Indians (NCAI) this resolution passed by its members at their biennial meeting on September 14, 2016; and

WHEREAS, tribes across Indian Country have recognized the devastating impact drug abuse has had on their citizens. The abuse includes illegal drugs particularly heroin and methamphetamines and the abuse of prescription medication, which impacts AI/AN Elders; and

WHEREAS, the devastation from this drug epidemic is fragmenting families, contributes to the neglect of children and Elders, and threatens to destroy communities. Those in the grips of drug abuse view AI/AN Elders as attractive targets for the theft of resources and prescription medication; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) was passed to address drug abuse and the violence faced by Indian Country. The law requires interagency coordination between the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OIASA) was created for focus on this subject; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NICOA Elders support the Tribal Law and Order Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2016.

CERTIFICATION

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