



Conference Resolutions

Resolutions are accepted from NICOA members, Tribes and Indian Elder organizations. Resolutions will be presented for review during the area caucuses and final approval will be voted on by NICOA members at the General Session on Friday, September 5, 2014.

Resolutions that are approved by the NICOA membership are submitted to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for presentation to the appropriate federal government agencies.

Here is a list of the 2014 resolutions in order by title.

#	Title of Resolution	Submitted by
2014-01	American Indian/Alaska Native Elders Support the Elimination of Race-Based Native Logos, Mascots and Names – Not Approved	Phyllis Stott, NICOA Member
2014-02	Gerontology and Geriatric Research to Benefit American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Elders and Tribes - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-03	Medicaid Asset Recovery Exemption for American Indian/ Alaska Native Elders - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-04	NICOA Elders Call for a National American Indian/Alaska Native Hearing on Aging - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-05	NICOA Elders Oppose Cuts in Title V Funding - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-06	NICOA Elders Request Comparable Equity between Title III State Services and Title VI Tribal Services - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-07	NICOA Elders Request Long Term Care Funding - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-08	NICOA Elders Support Dental Therapy for all American Indian Rural Areas - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-09	NICOA Elders Support Medicaid Expansion for Every State - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-10	NICOA Elders Support the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-11	NICOA Elders Support the Social Security Administration Accountability Act of 2014 - Approved	NICOA Board
2014-12	NICOA Elders Support the Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act - Approved	NICOA Board



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-01

TITLE: American Indian/Alaska Native Elders Support the Elimination of Race Based Native Logos, Mascots and Names

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, Native cultures have endured for centuries despite attempts to destroy and assimilate them. The NICOA Spiritual Message offers a glimpse into the unique worldview of American Indian/Alaska Native Elders and their resilience. The message conveyed is one of respect for all people. All people should strive for responsible behavior and should not inflict pain or suffering on others. Having endured so many efforts to silence them, American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to feel excluded from many America activities due to this cultural expropriation. Many Americans may not realize they are unintentionally showing great disrespect for all Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, national sports franchises should not be vehicles of racism. The use of logos, mascots and names is viewed by many Native nations as offensive, demeaning, degrading, disrespectful, or racist; and

WHEREAS, the continued use of stereotypes by national sports franchises not only detracts from the proud history, cultures, and traditions of Native peoples, it also demeans their Native traditions and rituals; and

WHEREAS, the use of logos, mascots and names remain a cherished tradition in many Native communities, and therefore, tribes that so choose to retain traditional names and symbolism should be exempt from this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NICOA Elders do hereby support the immediate elimination of race-based Native logos, mascots, and names from national sports franchises across the United States. Our goal with this action is to remove stereotypes and raise self-esteem of Native peoples; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Eddie T. Lullis

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING Resolution #2014-02

TITLE: Gerontology and Geriatric Research to Benefit American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Elders & Tribes

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 Congress of American Indians (NCAI) this resolution passed by its members at their biennial meeting on September 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, health care providers and the general public do not have access to adequate gerontology and geriatric data and information. There is a lack of relevant, immediate, applicable community based and inter-disciplinary data. This lack of information contributes to AI/AN health disparities, maltreatment, exclusion, gaps, and other gerontological health issues, and;

WHEREAS, research is needed to promote systematic investigation, development, testing, and evaluation centered on health issues central to the Native community in order to create a continual dialogue between investigators, health care providers, and the Native communities in general; and

WHEREAS, the lack of research and evidence based data and information specific to AI/AN Elders decreases opportunities for tribes to seek alternative funding placing the AI/AN entities at a disadvantage for accessing potential resources to support aging services. Health care data and information help to enhance opportunities to secure funding resources for a variety of care services by tracking death rates and such chronic illness and acute disease. The evidence based findings and interviews will contribute to health based equity and promote healthier lifestyles and establish common ethical and research practices such as community based participatory research (CBPR) that gains the trust of the AI/AN community by observing cultural values; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NICOA Elders do hereby request that the U.S Department of Health and Human Services increase opportunities and direct funding for gerontology and geriatric research to AI/AN entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health increase research for and by AI/AN organizations with direct set aside funding from an increased Congressional appropriation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-03

TITLE: Medicaid Asset Recovery Exemption for American Indian/Alaska Native Elders

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, federal law requires recovery of assets (“estate recovery”) by states when a patient has been in long term care. Trust assets and some traditional property may not be recovered but most real and personal property of AI/ANs is subject to liens by the state under this rule when a patient dies; and

WHEREAS, estate recovery was authorized to alleviate some of the financial costs of long term care provided by the Medicaid program. States are required to recover the costs of nursing home or home and community-based services and may recover for other related Medicaid expenses. There is narrow discretion to grant hardship exemptions or waive estate recovery; and

WHEREAS, one third of AI/ANs are in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. A report by the Kaiser Family Foundation states that “[the AI/AN] poverty rate is higher than any other racial or ethnic group and about twice as high as the poverty rate of the overall nonelderly population.” This means that many AI/ANs have no choice but to accept Medicaid benefits for life-saving care. They may be aware of the dangers of estate recovery but have few other options available, or they may decline needed care; and

WHEREAS, an exemption from estate recovery for AI/ANs nationwide would be consistent with the Affordable Care Act exemption from tax penalties and would ensure that the health status of AI/ANs would be substantially improved; it would likely save lives. This exemption is fundamentally consistent with the trust responsibility the US government owes to AI/ANs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA does hereby request the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive all estate recovery for AI/ANs enrolled in Medicaid; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-04

TITLE: NICOA Elders Call for a National American Indian/Alaska Native Hearing on Aging

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 (AI/AN) 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, AI/ANs are struggling with many issues that are unrecognized by policy makers as poverty increases, substandard housing deteriorates, health care dollars shrink, the cost of living increases, veterans suffer long waits and lack of care, federal funding decreases, Native Elders age in greater numbers and require home and community-based long term services and supports, raise grandchildren, live with Alzheimer's Disease, provide caregiving as they cope with their own aging challenges, work for acceptance of LGBT Elders; and

WHEREAS, Congress has stated that "older individuals who are Indians, older individuals who are Alaskan Natives, and older individuals who are Native Hawaiians are a vital resource entitled to all benefits and services available and that such services and benefits should be provided in a manner that preserves and restores their respective dignity, self-respect, and cultural identities" (42 U.S.C. 3057a); and

WHEREAS, in the 36 years since Title VI was added to the Older Americans Act, funding and services for Title VI have never been comparable to funding for Title III, leaving older American Indians and Alaska Natives without needed services to allow them to live vital, independent lives, as long as possible in their homes and communities. These many pressing concerns require a broader audience to create awareness and a sense of the urgent, imperative nature of the problem; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders request full Congressional Hearings on the Needs of American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Elders to enable tribal leadership to testify on the status and unmet needs of tribal Elders. These hearings should also be held throughout Indian Country to allow for our esteemed Elders attendance and participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congressional hearings be held prior to September 30, 2015 and be co-sponsored by the Senate Select Committee on Aging and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING
Resolution # 2014-05

TITLE: NICOA Elders Oppose Cuts in Title V Funding

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 Senior Community Employment Program or SCSEP is the largest federally funded program which targets older adults 55 and older seeking training and employment. It is authorized by Title V of the Older Americans Act. Created in 1965, the program matches eligible older adults with part time work-based training in community service organizations. Participants build skills and self-confidence while earning a modest income. For some, their SCSEP experience leads to permanent employment. This job training serves as a bridge to unsubsidized employment opportunities for participants and assists with the provision of needed community services; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2015 budget request proposes a cut of over \$54 million to SCSEP (from \$434.4 million to \$380 million) across the nation. This cut would mean a loss of paid training for 9,000 lower income older adults in national and state projects. This loss of funding would impact the Elders receiving training and also the programs who benefit from SCSEP participants' assistance; and

WHEREAS, in the year ending June 30, 2014, NICOA SCSEP provided 539,513 hours of service in over 210 local tribal, government, and private nonprofit community agencies; and

WHEREAS, funding for the National Indian Council on Aging's SCSEP would be cut by \$730,717 starting July 1, 2015. About 100 fewer older low income Elders would be provided jobs and training and approximately 61,700 staff hours would be lost by community service organizations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders oppose the proposed \$54 million cut to SCSEP and any future cut in funding to SCSEP; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-06

TITLE: NICOA Elders Request Comparable Equity between Title III State Services and Title VI Tribal Services

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 Administration on Aging (AoA) grants are awarded under Title VI to American Indian tribal organizations, Alaskan Native organizations, and non-profit groups representing Native Hawaiians. Grants are used to fund supportive and nutrition services for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders. Grants are awarded to more than 250 tribal organizations and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations. In addition, family caregiver grants have been awarded to 218 Title VI organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act states in Title VI that "it is the purpose of this Title to promote the delivery of supportive services, including nutrition services, to AI/ANs and Native Hawaiians that are comparable to services provided under Title III. However, the provision of "comparable services", has not been achieved due to insufficient funds for this Title; and

WHEREAS, NICOA acknowledges the tremendous efforts of Title VI Directors and the creative approaches they develop to cope with budget shortfalls. Approximately two thirds of the grants to AI/AN tribes or consortia of tribes are for less than \$100,000. This funding level is expected to provide services for a minimum of 50 Elders for an entire year. Those tribes receiving more than or at least \$100,000 serve between 200-300 Elders. Many tribes are not able to meet the five day per week meal requirement because of insufficient funding and are serving congregate meals only two or three days per week; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders request that the Administration on Aging (AoA) increase appropriation of funding for Title VI of the Older Americans Act based on the number of eligible AI/ANs in each of the designated service areas. According to the AoA, the number of AI/AN people age 65 and older is projected to increase by nearly 75% between 2010 and 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders request for increased training for Title VI service providers that include new and innovative ways to improve Indian Elder access to social services. Funding for training should be separate from funds used to provide direct services; 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, at which a quorum was present. **CERTIFICATION**

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Eddie T. Lullis



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-07

TITLE: NICOA Elders Request Long Term Care Funding

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, as the American Indian/Alaska Native Elder population increases, the urgent need for long term care services and supports also increases. According to the Administration on Aging, the number of AI/AN people age 65 and older is projected to increase by nearly 75% between 2010 and 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that Native people overall were 50.3% more likely to have a disability, when compared with the national average. Overall AI/AN populations experience some of the highest rates of chronic disease and disability in the U.S; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 survey by R. Tuner Goins, Ph.D. found that out of 566 tribes only 15 percent of tribes had nursing home services and 16 percent had assisted living services; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act and its dual legislation, the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act grants the Indian Health Service (IHS) specific authorities for provision of long term care; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned legislation only authorizes IHS to provide services but does not mandate any new funding specific to long-term care. The Indian Health Service does provide care but has been underfunded for decades. In a 2005 GAO report titled "Indian Health Service: Health Care Services Are Not Always Available to Native Americans" highlighted the ongoing problems of long wait times, lack of adequate facilities and rationing of care due to lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, adequate appropriations are needed to address this looming health crisis; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders do hereby call on the Obama administration to request and for Congress to authorize and appropriate adequate funding for the provision of long term care services and supports for American Indian and Alaska Natives; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-08

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support Dental Therapy for all American Indian Rural Areas

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, American Indians suffer greater health disparities than the population at large. Quality dental care is essential to overall health. An Indian Health Service (IHS) Oral Health survey shows that nearly 25% of adults over 65 are completely edentulous meaning that they completely lack teeth; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of qualified dental health care professionals in Indian Country. By developing training programs for underserved American Indian areas, the possibility exists for improved health for all Natives especially vulnerable Elders. A model Dental Therapist program has been in existence, has been thoroughly evaluated for safety, quality, and appropriate scope of practice in Alaska, and has received high results and accolades from patients, health care professionals and community leaders in the U.S., and in over 50 other countries; and

WHEREAS, this program could easily be adapted for all those living in rural areas who suffer from lack of adequate dental care and could potentially help many underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, there is growing awareness of this problem and potential solution with several resolutions already approved by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NICOA Elders do hereby support the current resolutions approved by the NCAI that urge adoption by tribal leaders of a two year training model as demonstrated by the implementation of the Alaska Dental Health Aides Therapists program; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



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

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Chairman



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National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014- 10

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support the Reauthorization of the Older Americans 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, the Older Americans Act is the key legislative framework for developing, coordinating, and delivering home and community based services that allow American Indian/Alaska Native Elders to maintain their independence. The Title VI program of the Older Americans Act provides for supportive and nutrition services which aid AI/ANs across the country. The Act also authorizes the only federal workforce program which provides training to help transition low income Elders into suitable employment in their community. The Act also provides for a long term care ombudsman program to provide those living in long term care facilities with protection of their rights and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, despite these and many other important provisions, the Older Americans Act was last reauthorized in 2006; its authorization expired in 2011. This delay means that even more Elders will not receive services as demand is only projected to increase. The population of American Indian/Alaska Natives age 65 and older is expected to grow by 116% by 2030. Additionally the Older Americans Act is subject to sequestration, resulting in unnecessary and harmful cuts each year through 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee voted to send S. 1562, a bipartisan reauthorization bill, to the Senate floor. In the House Rep. Suzanne Bonamici has introduced H.R. 4122, which would strengthen the Older Americans Act and is similar to the Senate bill. Another House bill, H.R. 3850 would simply reauthorize the Act with no changes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders do hereby support the passage of S.1562 and H.R. 4122. These bills would expand and modernize the Act for the next 5 years as well as preserve the separate titles for congregate and home-delivered nutrition programs and maintain voluntary contributions for participants. As a last resort, NICOA would also support the straight reauthorization bill, H.R. 3850; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



NICOA

National Indian Council On Aging

Advocating for American Indian and Alaska Native Elders

NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution # 2014-11

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support the Social Security Administration Accountability Act of 2014

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 (AI/AN) 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, many AI/AN tribal Elders live in remote areas and prefer to receive Social Security information and guidance from a trained professional in-person at the local Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices instead of transactions using potentially confusing and intimidating online databases. Those serving AI/ANs can answer questions more readily and ensure that they understand the various benefits programs available to them from the Social Security Administration; and

WHEREAS, these important field offices provide valuable services to vulnerable Elders who may depend on their Social Security benefits as a sole source of income; and

WHEREAS, these Social Security Field Offices are facing closure and will therefore limit efficient, culturally sensitive customer service. These offices provide services that are critical to tribal Elders and reservation communities; and

WHEREAS, other provisions of the Social Security Accountability of 2014 call for submission of a budget estimate directly to Congress and the President, revises requirements that require inclusion of the number of cases pending at each hearing office and average processing time, requires the Commissioner to submit a detailed report outlining and justifying the process for selecting field offices to be closed, consolidated, or otherwise having limited access before the Commissioner can close any Social Security Administration (SSA) field office as well as requires the Commissioner to follow certain administrative procedures; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA recognizes and supports the Social Security Administration's commitment to support and provide customer service in rural areas benefiting tribal communities and Elders; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, NICOA Elders support the Social Security Administration Accountability Act of 2014 (H.R. 3997) and urges that SSA field offices remain open and continue to provide excellent customer service; 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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman



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, at which a quorum was present.

Chairman