



NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2016 –01

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support Implementation of the Service of Traditional Food in Public Facilities

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, Section 4033 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) (Farm Bill) directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration to allow donations and serving of traditional food through food service programs at public and nonprofit facilities, including those operated by Indian tribes and facilities operated by tribal organizations, that primarily serve Indians. The donated foods can include food caught or harvested locally to be given to programs serving tribal Elders living in hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, and senior meal programs with the understanding that safe food practices are ensured; and

WHEREAS, we support the following methods to accomplish this Elder centered approach: community food donations, use of local vendors, effective tribal food code procedures, development of traditional food councils within Long Term Care facilities which receive support from tribal leadership and federal, state and local regulatory agencies. Healthy, traditional food choices lead to better health outcomes including: improved diabetic management, reduced renal disease, improved cardiovascular disease management, prevention of unintended weight loss, improved mood, and the assurance of independence and self-control; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders support implementation of Section 4033, Service of Traditional Foods in Public Places as a Best Practice in hospitals, clinics, Long Term Care facilities, and senior meal programs which will benefit tribal Elders because Elder's quality of life and overall satisfaction is impacted by the opportunity to eat foods most meaningful to them

CERTIFICATION

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

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NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2016 – 02

**TITLE: NICOA Elders Support the NIHB Budget Recommendations on the
Indian Health Service Fiscal Year 2018 Budget**

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) Elder; and

WHEREAS, AI/AN Tribes are sovereign entities and have a unique government to government relationship with the federal government. This relationship was originally established in treaties, the U.S. Constitution, and other laws which acknowledged the obligation of the federal government to provide health care for AI/ANs; and

WHEREAS, most AI/AN Elders rely exclusively on the Indian Health Service (IHS) for their health care; and

WHEREAS, On December 28, 2010, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator Byron Dorgan issued a report titled: “In Critical Condition: The Urgent Need to Reform the Indian Health Service’s Aberdeen Area” The report states: “...the Chairman identified deficiencies in management, employee accountability, financial integrity, and oversight of IHS Aberdeen Area facilities. The Chairman determined that these weaknesses have contributed to reduced access and quality of health care services available to patients served in the Area.” The findings show that: “These issues impact overall access and quality of health care services provided to Native American patients in the Aberdeen Area. Many of these issues may stem from a greater lack of oversight by the Area office and IHS headquarters fostering an environment where employees and management are not held accountable for poor performance.” and

WHEREAS, in the report titled “A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country”, one expert stated that “...IHS operates with an estimated 59 percent of what it needs to provide adequate health care.” The federal government spends less per capita on Native American health care than on any other group for which it has this responsibility, including Medicaid recipients, prisoners, veterans, and military personnel. “; and

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WHEREAS, the IHS sponsors the Federal Disparity Index (FDI) Workgroup which measures gaps in health care funding for AI/AN people. This index illustrates disparities in funding and helps assess unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, the Quiet Crisis report created a list of IHS programs within the Department of Health and Human Services that have not been adequately funded. These include: Health facility construction and renovation, Urban health programs, Contract health services, Preventive health, Sanitation services, Health professional training; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) provides technical support to the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Budget Workgroup as they develop budget priorities that reflect the needs of tribes across Indian Country; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the NICOA Elders support the NIHB budget recommendations on the Indian Health Service fiscal year 2018 budget. These recommendations include: fully funding IHS at \$30.8 billion phased in over 12 years, increase the President's FY 2017 budget request for the IHS by a minimum of 37% (\$7.1 billion) in FY 2018, provide dedicated funding to begin implementing provisions of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, including funding provisions for long term services and supports, advocate that tribes and tribal programs be permanently exempt from sequestration, and support advance appropriations for IHS.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NICOA Board of Directors will commit themselves to ensuring health care funding becomes an important priority and to working for coordination between federal agencies and improving services for our Elders.

CERTIFICATION

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

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NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING

Resolution #2016 – 03

TITLE: NICOA Elders Support Passage of S.2785, Tribal Youth and Community Protection 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; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2016 S. 2785, the Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act of 2016 was introduced into the U.S. Senate. S. 2785 states that children in Indian Country should be protected from violence, tribal communities which includes caregivers (Caregivers include any parent, guardian, legal custodian, and any relative of the child such as grandparents, great-grandparents) should be able to protect themselves from offenders who bring illegal drugs onto Indian reservations, and violence against children and crimes associated with illegal drugs increase the number of victims suffering from trauma in tribal communities. Congress established the Indian Law and Order Commission to advise the federal government on improving criminal justice in Indian Country; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NICOA Elders hereby support the swift passage of S. 2785 to protect Native children and promote public safety in Indian Country. NICOA joins with NCAI in supporting this bill.

CERTIFICATION

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

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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.

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**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.

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