



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-NICOA2010-008

TITLE: Requesting Administration on Aging to support Aging and Long Term Care Systems to meet the needs of American Indians and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders.

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians 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 Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the AI/AN population is growing older. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the future age structure of the population will be older than it is now. As this population ages, the median age will be driven by the aging Baby-Boomer generation. In 2011, the first members of the Baby Boomers will reach age 65 and consist of 30% of the U.S. population. The last of this generation will reach age 65 in the year 2029, projected to be only about 16% of the total population; and

WHEREAS, the AI/AN population is young and doubling every 30 years. In 2000, for example, Navajos 60 and over numbered 17,934, and a conservative estimate of the Navajo elders by 2020 is 30,555 an increase of 70%, and by 2050, 50,273. Elders will be healthier, have longer life expectancy, will be more educated and mobile, and their needs will be different from the today's older AI/ANs. The need for community based services will be in demand and their knowledge, expertise and skills will require increased opportunities for training, mentorship, volunteerism, and giving back to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the population of AI/AN Elders is increasing and creating a demand for long term care services. With the Baby-boomers coming of eligible age and the lack of innovative and unique service delivery systems to meet their needs, there will be increasing gaps in demand for services and available resources. A state of the art long term care delivery system will address demands for innovative and unique long term care services to meet the challenges of the changing trends in population. Improving upon existing service systems will contribute to better health care for older AI/AN in the future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA requests the Administration on Aging to support and conduct a coordinated comprehensive

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assessment of needs for future generations of older AI/ANs and to help plan a sustainable long term care service system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NICOA recommends identification of resources to design culturally sensitive and an appropriate long term care system for the aging AI/AN populations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NICOA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary