



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-NICOA2010-009

TITLE: Elderly Veterans accessibility to Veteran's Administration services and health care in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

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, men and women of AI/AN descent have been called into military service and proudly served in the defense of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, wherever AI/ANs are called to serve in military service and in the defense of the United States of America, they represent the highest number per capita of any population group in the country; and

WHEREAS, AI/ANs have served with honor, pride, and courage of patriotism to the "love and protection of our indigenous homeland"; and

WHEREAS, over 1% of AI/ANs serving in the U.S. Armed Forces are killed in action and a higher percentage are wounded in conflict and return home to limited or no health care services; and

WHEREAS, federal health care services are situated in border towns convenient to professional providers but inconvenient and often inaccessible to AI/AN Elder veterans; comfort, convenience, and accessibility of federal employees and professional providers working in federal facilities is perceived to be of a higher priority than services to the AI/AN military Elder veterans residing on AI/AN lands; and

WHEREAS, Veteran's Administration Health Care facilities for, in- and out-patient care are distantly located and often inaccessible to many AI/AN communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veteran's Administration and Federal Indian Health Care Services provide plans for greater accessibility for

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

services and health care to elderly AI/AN veterans residing in distant locations on AI/AN lands; and

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