



# 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, AZ, at which a quorum was present.



Chairman