



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-014

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TITLE: Support for Trans and Gender-Affirming Care in IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Facilities – 2021 Strategic Vision and Action Plan

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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, NCAI supports the health and wellbeing of all Native people, including those who are Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or another identity (LGBTQ+), and

WHEREAS, prior to contact with settlers, many tribal nations across the country and continent had long histories of respect and inclusion of those in their communities who might today identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals disproportionately experience refusal of care, discrimination, and insufficient provider knowledge in healthcare settings; and

WHEREAS, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals' who fear discrimination or harassment in healthcare settings are more likely to postpone necessary treatment and report lack of access to care; and

WHEREAS, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals are important members of their communities who deserve access to appropriate health care in affirming environments; and

WHEREAS, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals experience health disparities including increased risk of anxiety, depression, HIV, exposure to violence, and suicidality; and

WHEREAS, access to gender-affirming healthcare is critical and lifesaving for transgender individuals; and

WHEREAS, healthcare settings are uniquely positioned to affirm Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ identities; and

WHEREAS, Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals thrive in settings which demonstrate respect and inclusion of their identities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports the Trans and Gender-affirming care in IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health facilities – 2021 Strategic Vision and Action Plan; https://www.npaihb.org/wp-content/uploads/filebase/Trans-and-Gender-Affirming-Care-2020-Strategic-Vision-and-Action-Plan_vClickable-v2.pdf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports advocacy for the continued dissemination of, and implementation of the goals within, the Strategic Vision and Action Plan throughout Indian Country over the next five years to ensure that our healthcare facilities and communities affirm all sexual orientations and gender identities; and

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary