



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Seventh Annual Tribal Assembly
April 20-22, 2022
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 22-13

Title: Support for Congressional Legislation to Invest in Indian Health Care
System Infrastructure

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 34,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Indian health care system fulfills the federal trust responsibility to ensure the health and wellness of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations despite chronic underfunding and dilapidated facilities; and

WHEREAS, the chronic underfunding of Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health facilities is well-documented by IHS, United States Congressional committees, the United States Government Accountability Office, and the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and

WHEREAS, the average IHS hospital is 40 years of age and national benchmarks for operation and maintenance costs report that a 40-year old facility is about 26% more expensive to maintain than a 10-year old facility; and

WHEREAS, outdated health care facilities impact the implementation of integrated health care models, efficient delivery of care and services, and the modernization of the Indian health care system that serves over 7 million AI/AN people annually; and

WHEREAS, 86% of urban Indian organizations (UIO) report needing to make facilities and infrastructure upgrades, while 74% of UIOs report unmet need for new construction to better serve patients; and

WHEREAS, the absence of adequate health care facilities perpetuates poor health outcomes and racial health disparities for AI/ANs; and

WHEREAS, the passage of H.R. 133 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided funding for IHS to conduct a first-of-its-kind infrastructure study for UIO facilities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1319: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 amended the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow UIOs to utilize IHS contract program funding for facility improvements, renovations, and construction; and

WHEREAS, UIOs continue to be ineligible for the IHS facilities line item to make significant investment in facility construction, maintenance, leasehold improvements, renovation, and equipment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Seventh Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 20-22, 2022, hereby supports overdue investments into urban Indian organizations (UIO) facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tlingit & Haida President shall send letters in support of UIO infrastructure investment to the Alaska delegation in Washington, D.C.


ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2022, by the Eighty-Seventh Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata