



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

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Sixth Annual Tribal Assembly
October 1, 2021
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 21-08

Title: Support for Congressional Legislation to Invest in Indian Healthcare 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 32,000 citizens; 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 percent more expensive to maintain than a 10-year old facility; and

WHEREAS, there is no national data or report documenting the infrastructure needs of the 41 urban Indian organizations in the IHS Urban Indian Health Program, and 86 percent of urban Indian organizations report needing to make facilities and infrastructure upgrades, while 74 percent of urban Indian organizations report unmet need for new construction to better serve patients; 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WHEREAS, outdated health care facilities impact the implementation of integrated health care models, efficient delivery of care and services, and the modernization of the Indian healthcare system that serves over 2.2 million American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people annually; and

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

WHEREAS, investments in health care facilities across the Indian healthcare system will allow all forty-one urban Indian organizations to finance facility construction, maintenance, leasehold improvements, renovation, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Indian healthcare system fulfills the federal trust responsibility to ensure the health and wellness of AI/AN populations despite chronic under funding and dilapidated facilities; and

WHEREAS, urban Indian organizations do not receive any IHS funding from the Indian Health Facilities account for infrastructure improvement, which has made facility repairs, renovations, and remediation exceedingly difficult; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) currently limits the ability of urban Indian organizations to use IHS contract funding for facility improvements, renovations, and construction; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3496 and S. 1797: Urban Indian Health Providers Facilities Improvement Act would amend the IHCIA to allow urban Indian organizations to utilize IHS contract funds for improvements, renovations, and construction of health care facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Sixth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened October 1, 2021, hereby supports the passage and enactment of H.R. 3496 and S. 1797: Urban Indian Health Providers Facilities Improvement Act; and

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

ADOPTED this 1st day of October 2021, by the Eighty-Sixth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe