



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
Eighty-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly  
April 17-19, 2024  
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 24-07

Title: Call for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to Implement an Urban Confer Policy Across the Department and its Divisions

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 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Consultation is solely used to describe the distinct government-to-government relationship between tribal nations and the United States; and

WHEREAS, decades of deliberate federal policies such as relocation, termination, and forced assimilation have contributed to a significant number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people residing in urban cities; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Congress created the Indian Health Service (IHS) to help fulfill its trust responsibility to provide healthcare services to AI/AN people, and in 1976 that responsibility was expanded by authorizing funding for Urban Indian Organizations (UIO) through the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA); and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Congress reauthorized and amended IHCIA with a provision that requires IHS to “confer” with UIOs in carrying out IHCIA; and

WHEREAS, IHCIA defines “confer” as “to engage in an open and free exchange of information and opinions that leads to mutual understanding and comprehension that emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility”; and

WHEREAS, to this day, IHS is the only federal agency with an urban confer policy; and

WHEREAS, 76% of AI/AN people now reside in urban areas and federal public health resources must continue to follow AI/AN beneficiaries regardless of where they reside; and

WHEREAS, the federal trust responsibility to provide health care to AI/ANs does not apply solely to IHS because the obligation extends to all government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), its agencies and divisions; and

WHEREAS, a designated urban confer with HHS would only be carried out with IHS designated UIOs as defined by IHCIA (25 U.S. Code § 1653) when considering policies and programs which have a direct impact on urban AI/AN beneficiaries;

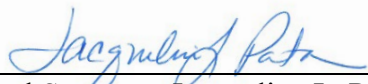
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 17-19, 2024, hereby urges the U.S. Congress and the Administration to implement a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-wide Urban Confer Policy.

ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, by the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata