

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Principal Chief



George Tiger
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT OF THE FY 2016 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL THAT CONGREEE ESTABLISHED A MANDATORY APPROPRIATION FOR CONTRACT SUPPORT COST

Resolution No. 15-16

WHEREAS, The Inter-Tribal Council of The Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and,

WHEREAS, The ITC recognizes that American Indian people suffer greater health and other disparities than others living in Oklahoma. The top leading causes of death among Indians in Oklahoma are heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, The historic allocations of resources appropriated to all Indian health systems have created a disparity and underfunding for the Oklahoma City Area compared to all other Areas in the United States. The Oklahoma City Area has been in the bottom 25% of all Indian Health Areas and consistently rates as one of the lowest funded Areas within the IHS system; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have spent nearly two decades to establish that contract support costs are a legal obligation of the United States and not the equivalent of a discretionary grant; and

WHEREAS, The ITC appreciates the efforts to establish a mandatory appropriation for contract support costs as a solution to the multi-decade underfunding of contract support costs, and strongly supports a mandatory appropriation to pay these costs. This will, at last, match federal budgetary policy with the legal requirement in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to fully fund contract support cost obligations to tribes; and

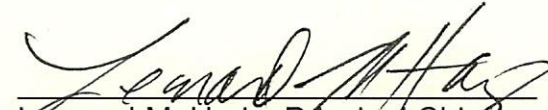
WHEREAS, The ITC supports this change in policy as it will provide stabilization in the budget for all Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service programs; direct service and self-governance alike. It also strengthens the government-to-government relationship between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service and tribal governments in recognition of tribal governments' assumption of federal functions; and

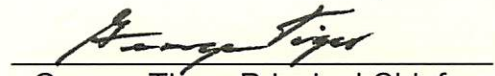
WHEREAS, the ITC supports the mandatory appropriation for contract support costs because a mandatory appropriation would remove contract support cost payments from the discretionary budget. A mandatory appropriation is therefore an effective answer to the dilemma posed by locating a legally binding obligation within an appropriation structured to address discretionary service requirements; and


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ITC support of Congress creating a Mandatory Appropriation for the Payment of Contract Support Costs.

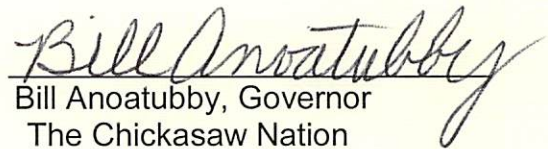
CERTIFICATION

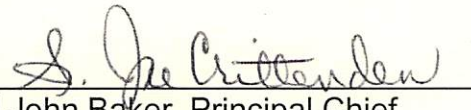
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 10th day of April, 2015, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

For 
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation