The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Preservation of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and Specific Indian Health Provisions, as well as Maintaining Federal Responsibility for Health Care Services

Resolution No. 17-01

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 more than 650,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), Section 10221 includes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), and other important provisions specific to the American Indian population; and

WHEREAS, the IHCIA provides the primary legislative authority for the Indian health system, including those health services operated by IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian (I/T/U) providers. The IHCIA was permanently reauthorized in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the IHCIA is the cornerstone legislation which provides healthcare services for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in fulfillment of the federal government’s trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Indian-specific provisions are integral to the effective performance of the Indian health system and must be preserved. These provisions include:

Section 2901, which states that any I/T/U be the payer of last resort for services provided notwithstanding any Federal, State, or local law to the contrary;

Section 2902, which grants I/T/U providers permanent authority to collect reimbursements for all Medicare Part B services;

Section 9021, which ensures that any health benefits provided by a Tribe to its members are not included as taxable income; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby strongly urges congress to preserve the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and Section 2901, Section 2902, and Section 9021, that are currently included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 13th day of January, 2017, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma