

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution of the Inter-Tribal Council Requesting a Waiver of Co-Payments for health care services rendered at a VA health care facility for American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans

Resolution No. 17-15



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

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, Congress has the constitutional authority and responsibility to provide for Indian health care. Tribes signed treaties and negotiated other agreements with the United States in which they ceded vast amounts of territory in exchange for certain solemn promises. These promises include protecting Tribal self-government and providing for the health and well-being of Indian peoples. Indian treaties are the supreme law of the land, and in carrying out these treaty obligations, the United States has "moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust"; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed numerous Indian-specific laws to provide for Indian health care, including establishing the Indian health care system and passing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), 25 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq. Congress has also legislated to provide Indians with access to general health programs, such as Medicaid, while creating Indian-specific protections within those programs that reflect this unique political relationship; and

WHEREAS, there are many American Indian/Alaska Native peoples who have served in the United States military and are eligible for health care services in the Veterans Administration health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration is a federal government program and thereby shares in the federal responsibility to provide healthcare to American Indian/Alaska Native veterans, even if they are eligible for services at Indian health care facilities; and

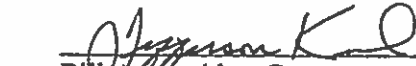
WHEREAS, in fulfilling that federal responsibility, all co-payments required at Veterans Administration health care facilities should be waived for all American Indian/Alaska Native veterans.

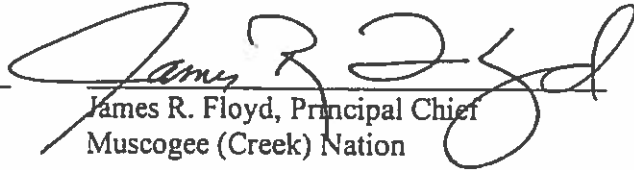
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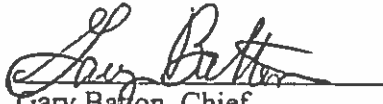
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby requests a waiver of all co-payments at Veterans Administration health care facilities for all American Indian/Alaska Native veterans.

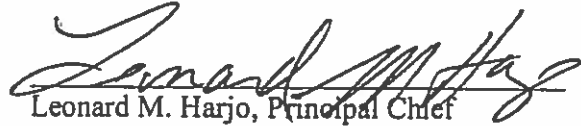
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 7th day of April, 2017, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anotubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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


Gary Barton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation