

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A resolution urging Congress to pass H.R. 195, the Pay our Doctors Act of 2019

Resolution No. 19-02



Bill John Baker
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 approximately 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the United States government has a trust responsibility to Indian tribes that includes providing for the health care needs of tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the primary provider of health care services for tribal citizens is the Indian Health Service; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) does not receive mandatory or advanced appropriations from the federal government, one of the only federal health agencies to not receive mandatory funding; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service is already drastically underfunded and is forced to stretch limited resources to provide the most basic health services for thousands of patients; and



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, government shutdowns, including the current partial government shutdown that began on December 21, 2018, leave tribally operated hospitals and other Indian clinics without funding from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this lack of consistent funding and uncertainty forces tribal hospitals and clinics to furlough health care workers and even lay-off staff; and



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, understaffed and underfunded Indian health care facilities will lead to the denial of basic health services, increased wait times, and ultimately worse health outcomes for thousands of tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan bill introduced by Congressman Markwayne Mullin, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and Congressman Tom Cole, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, would protect IHS funding from the impacts of a partial government shutdown; and

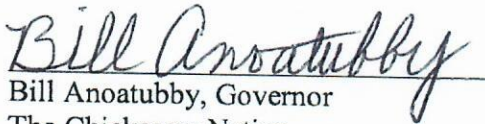
NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to swiftly adopt H.R. 195, the Pay our Doctors Act of 2019 to provide full-year appropriations for the Indian Health Service in the event of a partial lapse in appropriations; and

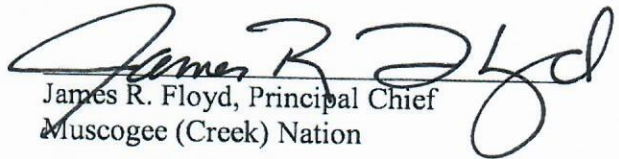
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES


THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the ITC requests that Congress classify Indian Health Service funds as mandatory appropriations to prevent the loss of funding in the event of future government shutdowns.


CERTIFICATION

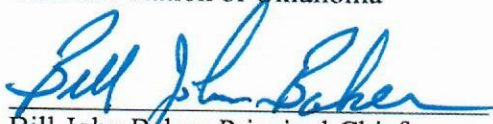
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 11th day of January 2019, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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


Gary Burton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation