

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Expansion of the State of Oklahoma's Medicaid Program to Certain Low-Income Adults, as Permitted Under Federal Medicaid Laws

Resolution No. 19-22



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
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 appropriations made by the federal government to provide healthcare to American Indians/Alaska Natives ("AI/AN"), whether administered by the Tribal nations or directly by the Indian Health Service ("IHS"), are wholly insufficient to satisfy the trust obligation to provide healthcare to AI/AN; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, in recognition of that federal obligation, Congress amended the Social Security Act over forty (40) years ago in 1976 to authorize Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for services provided through IHS and tribally operated health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the House Report in 1976 explained that "These Medicaid payments are viewed as a much-needed supplement to a health care program which has for too long been insufficient to provide quality health care to the American Indian..."; and



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, despite the authority to collect Medicaid payments to supplement Indian health, Oklahoma City area remains the lowest level-of-need-funded of the twelve (12) areas of the IHS, and the entire State of Oklahoma ("State") suffers the lowest health status among states in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid eligibility to 133% of the federal poverty level was authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and became available to states in 2014; and



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is one of fourteen (14) states that has not expanded Medicaid, thus refusing significant health care resources and causing much greater inequities in Indian health, depending on where our AI/AN citizens reside; and

WHEREAS, professional reports produced by a number of health economists strongly indicate that the spending offsets and savings to the State would result in little to no net costs to the State to expand Medicaid; and

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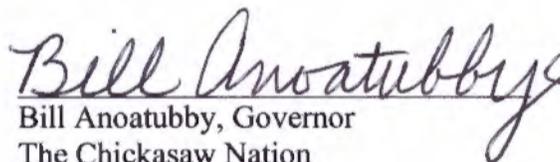
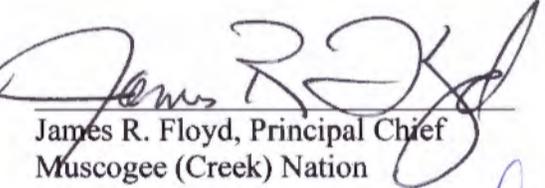
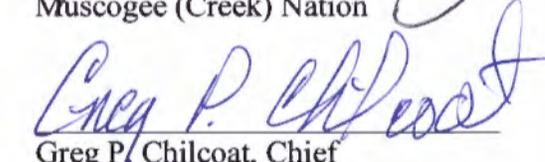
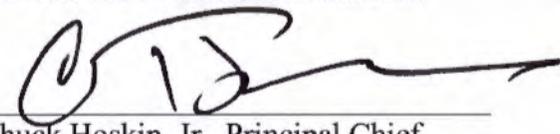
WHEREAS, the cost for services provided through IHS and Tribal facilities have been, and will continue to be, federally matched at 100%, thus costing the State nothing for these payments; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid is an unprecedented opportunity to leverage IHS, Tribal and State resources and provide a catalyst for improving the quantity and quality of health care.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports expansion of the State of Oklahoma's Medicaid program to certain low-income adults, as permitted under federal Medicaid laws.

CERTIFICATION

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

 Bill Anoatubby, Governor The Chickasaw Nation	 James R. Floyd, Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation
 Gary Batten, Chief The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	 Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
 Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief Cherokee Nation	