

**The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL  
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

NUMBER 98-32

**Opposition to Proposed Changes in Contract Support Costs**

**WHEREAS,**

the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 300,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

**WHEREAS,**

This council expresses its concern regarding the direction taken by Congress in the delivery of health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and

**WHEREAS,**

The per capita expenditure for health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives is 68% lower than expenditure for health care available to non-Indian citizens, and

**WHEREAS,**

The purchasing power of the Indian Health Service has been effectively reduced by \$1.2 billion in the past four years due to inflation and the lack of mandatory cost increases, and

**WHEREAS,**

The House and Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittees are finalizing their appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 1999 (House Resolution 4193 and Senate Bill 2237), and

**WHEREAS,**

The number one propriety of the National Congress of American Indians, the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee and the National Indian Health Board in Fiscal Year 1999 is a request of \$110 million for contract support costs for the Indian Health Service, and

**WHEREAS,**

Congress is debating the proposals that would radically change the contract support cost system and impose a national distribution of contract support costs resulting in severe reductions for many tribes with contract support cost agreements, and

**WHEREAS,**

Congress is also considering a moratorium on new contracting and compacting, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Interior Appropriations Committees have proposed language, included at Section 314, which would eliminate past due contract support cost obligations,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby formally declares its opposition to the proposal to distribute contract support costs for all existing and formally proposed contract support agreements (as of October 1, 1998) on a national pro-rata basis;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes opposes the proposals contained in Section 314 of Senate Bill 2237 and House Resolution 4193 which would extinguish past claims for contract support costs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes opposes the proposal contained in House Resolution 4193 which imposes a moratorium on new compacting and contracting that is intended to limit the growth of needed contract support cost agreements;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests that Congress consult with tribal governments in the development of acceptable options for resolving contract support cost issues and that it delays action until the National Congress of American Indians' Contract Support Costs Workgroup submits its final report in April, 1999.

**CERTIFICATION**

Adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting at Sulphur, Oklahoma on October 9, 1998, by a vote of 23 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Joe Byrd Signed  
Joe Byrd, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

Greg E. Pyle Signed  
Gregory E. Pyle, Chief  
Choctaw Nation

Perry Beaver Signed  
Perry Beaver, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Jerry Haney Signed  
Jerry Haney, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
Chickasaw Nation