



# Inter Tribal Association of Arizona

21 TRIBAL NATIONS

## Resolution 0321

### IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION EXPANDING TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ak-Chin Indian  
Community  
Cocopah Tribe  
Colorado River  
Indian Tribes  
Fort McDowell  
Yavapai Nation  
Fort Mojave  
Indian Tribe  
Gila River Indian  
Community  
Havasupai Tribe  
Hopi Tribe  
Hualapai Tribe  
Kaibab Band of Paiute  
Indians  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe  
Pueblo of Zuni  
Quechan Tribe  
Salt River Pima-  
Maricopa Indian  
Community  
San Carlos  
Apache Tribe  
San Juan  
Southern Paiute Tribe  
Tohono O'odham  
Nation  
Tonto Apache Tribe  
White Mountain  
Apache Tribe  
Yavapai-Apache  
Nation  
Yavapai-Prescott  
Indian Tribe

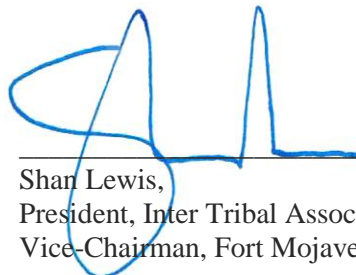
- WHEREAS,** the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, an association of 21 tribal governments in Arizona, provides a forum for tribal governments to advocate for national, regional and specific tribal concerns and to join in united action to address these concerns; and
- WHEREAS,** the Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona have the authority to act to further their collective interests as sovereign tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona has the charge to support and represent particular Member Tribes on matters directly affecting them upon their request; and
- WHEREAS,** Federal trust and treaty obligations are the result of the millions of acres of land and extensive resources ceded to the United States—oftentimes by force—in exchange for which it is legally and morally obligated to provide benefits and services in perpetuity, as well as uphold Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and self-governance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) authorizes Tribes and Tribal organizations to be funded by the Federal government to provide services that the Federal government would otherwise be obligated to provide due to the trust and treaty obligations of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** other methods of Federal funding, such a grants, treat Tribes as not-for-profits instead of sovereign governments and create unnecessary barriers to services provided in fulfillment of perpetual trust and treaty obligations; and
- WHEREAS,** Self-Determination and Self-Governance under the ISDEAA have led to a significant improvement in the daily lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives because Tribes are more accountable and responsive to our people; and
- WHEREAS,** the success of the ISDEAA prompted Congress in 2000 to establish permanent Tribal Self-Governance in the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Title V of the ISDEAA; and
- WHEREAS,** Title V authorizes participating Tribes to redesign IHS programs, and redirect funds supporting those programs, in any manner that the Tribes determine is in the best interest of their communities, upholding Tribal sovereignty and Self-Determination, and better reflecting the diplomatic relationship between the U.S. and Tribes; and

- WHEREAS,** in Title VI of the ISDEAA, enacted in 2000, Congress envisioned expanding Self-Governance to include grant programs administered by other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and
- WHEREAS,** in 2003, HHS issued a study concluding such an expansion was feasible and identifying eleven HHS programs that could be integrated into Self-Governance; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2004, the Senate considered legislation to authorize a demonstration project implementing Title VI, but that legislation was not enacted; and
- WHEREAS,** many of the selected programs Tribes have been administering successfully for decades under individual grants have resulted in Tribes building expertise in these programmatic areas; and
- WHEREAS,** most recently with the highly successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Tribal communities, outcomes are better when Tribes are empowered to make their own decisions and operate their own programs; and
- WHEREAS,** Self-Governance is the most successful Federal Indian policy in the history of Federal-Tribal relations; and
- WHEREAS,** expansion of Self-Governance within HHS is the next logical step to promote Tribal sovereignty and improve health care services, and has remained a top legislative priority of Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes have drafted legislation, modeled on the 2004 Senate bill, that would establish a demonstration project expanding Self-Governance to specified programs administered by non-IHS agencies within HHS.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona supports the introduction and enactment of legislation establishing a demonstration project to implement Title VI of the ISDEAA.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, where a quorum was present on **Thursday, September 30, 2021.**



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Shan Lewis,  
President, Inter Tribal Association of Arizona  
Vice-Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe