

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Legislation Expanding Tribal Self-Governance in the Department of Health and Human Services

Resolution No. 21-28

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 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; 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 for, and to administer 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 vendors or 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



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Bolton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis Johnson
Chief

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WHEREAS, in Title VI of the ISDEAA, also 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

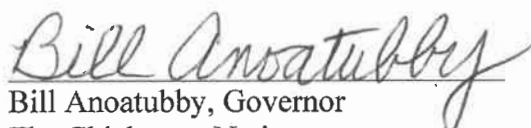
WHEREAS, expansion of Self-Governance within HHS is the next logical step to promote Tribal sovereignty and improve health care services, and has remained a top legislative priority of Tribes; and

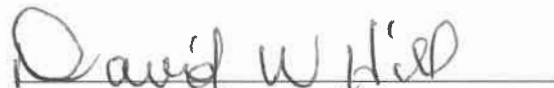
WHEREAS, Tribes have drafted legislation, modeled on the 2004 Senate bill, that would establish a demonstration project expanding Self-Governance to specified programs administered by non-IHS agencies within HHS;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports the introduction and enactment of legislation establishing a demonstration project to implement Title VI of the ISDEAA.

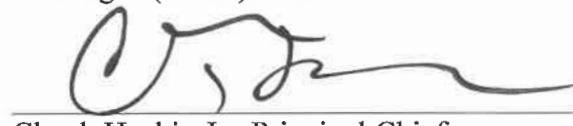
CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 8th day of October 2021, by a vote of _____ for _____ against and _____ abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Lewis J. Johnson, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma