



*Serving Tribes and Indian Organizations within the service area of the
Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service since 1972*

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-006

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

- WHEREAS,** the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) since 1972 serves as a unified voice for health-related interests for 43 federally recognized Tribes situated in the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services region encompassing portions of the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, and
- WHEREAS,** The Southern Plains Tribal Health Board advocates for the provision of quality health care to all American Indians and Alaska Natives as well as demanding the Federal government uphold trust responsibility to provide health care to all American Indians and Alaska Natives; 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 as grants, treat Tribes as vendors or 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, 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;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of Southern Plains Tribal Health Board in support of and service to the 43 federally recognized Tribes, fully supports the introduction and enactment of legislation establishing a demonstration project to implement Title VI of the ISDEAA, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board hereby affirms its full support as evidenced by the official signatures affixed below.

Signed:


Marty Wafford (Oct 13, 2021 14:55 CDT) Oct 13, 2021
Chair Date


Todd H. Burk (Oct 13, 2021 15:26 CDT) Oct 13, 2021
Vice-Chair Date


Oct 13, 2021
Secretary Date


Joseph P. Rupnick (Oct 13, 2021 16:47 CDT) Oct 13, 2021
Treasurer Date