

**UNITED TRIBES OF NORTH DAKOTA
RESOLUTION**

Resolution Entitled: Support for Passage of Health Care Reform in the 111th Congress

INTERTRIBAL SUMMIT XIII RESOLUTION NO. 09-09-01

- WHEREAS,** United Tribes of North Dakota ("United Tribes") is an association of the five federally recognized Tribes located in North Dakota, each of which has a government-to-government relationship with the United States established by Treaty, including the Three Affiliated Tribes, the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyaté, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Spirit Lake Tribe and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, with a Board of Directors composed of the Chairman and one council member from each member Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** United Tribes exists to assist in furthering the common goals of the North Dakota Indian Tribes and Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** On September 9-10, 2009, the Tribal Chairmen and the Tribal Council members from the five Tribal Nations that are members of United Tribes of North Dakota, along with other Tribal leaders from the upper Great Plains, have been meeting at the Thirteenth Annual InterTribal Summit discussing issues of great importance to the Indian Tribal Nations of North Dakota and their members; and
- WHEREAS,** The President of the United States has proposed to Congress a long overdue initiative to reform the health care delivery system of the United States, reforms that will allow almost all Americans access to affordable health care, and reforms that he has urged the Congress to enact in a major speech to Congress on September 9, 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** Health care for Native Americans remains a tremendously important issue, particularly in places like the Great Plains, where Native Americans suffer from diabetes at more than seven times the national rate, have increased rates of cancer and heart disease, and generally have a dramatically shorter average life span than other Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** The health care initiatives of the President are in addition to the President's initiatives to improve the Indian Health Service (IHS) that are ongoing, including providing \$590 million additional funding for IHS under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed earlier this year and his proposal, now pending in Congress, to add 13% to the IHS budget for FY 2010; and
- WHEREAS,** Nothing in the President's health care reform proposals is a threat to IHS, but, instead, the President's proposals will supplement the efforts of the IHS,

especially for Native Americans living away from IHS service areas and otherwise unable to receive IHS services; and

WHEREAS, Among other things, the President's proposals will do the following:

- Prevent insurance companies from charging for preventive care so illness and disease can be prevented instead of just treated when it's too late and costs more;
- Put a cap on what insurance companies can force an insured person to pay in out of pocket expenses and deductibles and eliminate yearly and life-time limits on how much insurance companies cover if you get sick;
- Create a new health insurance exchange so that people can easily compare insurance plans, prices and performance to decide which quality affordable insurance option is right for them;
- Ensure that each person always has guaranteed choices of quality, affordable health insurance even when there is a loss of job, a change of jobs, or illness; whether you lose your job, switch jobs, move or gets sick;
- Create a competitive public insurance option that will allow individuals to benefit from increased competition that holds insurance companies accountable;
- Prevent insurance companies from denying a person health insurance because of a pre-existing health condition, and prevent them from dropping a person's coverage in the case of illness or charging more because of health or gender; and
- Provide credits and assistance to working families to make sure they can afford quality coverage and to small businesses so they can offer competitive, affordable rates to their employees.

WHEREAS, The President's proposals will greatly assist Native Americans who do not have access to the Indian Health Service or in situations where the IHS cannot provide adequate health care services because of lack of funds, and any health care reform legislation should ensure a continuum of care for Native Americans between the IHS, any public component of the reform legislation, and private health insurance; and

WHEREAS, In any health reform legislation that is enacted by the Congress, Native Americans should be exempt from any individual penalty payment requirements regarding health insurance that might otherwise be contained in any health care reform because of the fundamental trust commitment the United States has made to health care for all Native Americans as a part of the treaties entered into with Indian tribes, as codified in numerous Federal laws; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and qualified Tribal organizations should also be eligible for any grants that assist in making health care reform work; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Nations of United Tribes of North Dakota support the efforts of national organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians to ensure that Indian specific amendments are made to health care reform proposals are enacted to assist in providing health care that meets the needs of Native Americans throughout the United State; and

WHEREAS, Recently, numerous efforts have been made to discredit the effort to reform the health care system, and include many things that are simply not true or included in the legislation, and the President has laid out forcefully in his address to Congress that the efforts to discredit the health care reform proposals he has offered to Congress are wrong; and

WHEREAS, For many Native Americans, health care reform, if enacted by Congress, can provide much needed additional health care coverage to what is provided by IHS; and

WHEREAS, President Obama needs the support of Indian country to assist in the passage of meaningful health care reform.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that United Tribes of North Dakota hereby supports the health care reform initiatives of President Obama, and urges Congress to enact significant health care reform in the 111th Congress; and

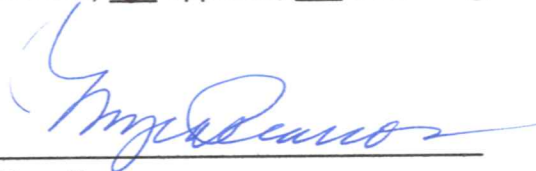
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that United Tribes of North Dakota hereby urges the Congressional delegations of North and South Dakota to support meaningful health care reform efforts, and to support the effort to include Indian-specific amendments that will meet the health care needs of all Native Americans in the United States; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that United Tribes of North Dakota hereby encourages its member Tribal Nations to enact similar resolutions to support the health care reform efforts of the Obama Administration; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of United Tribes of North Dakota until otherwise amended or rescinded.

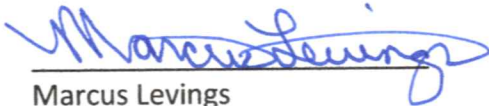
CERTIFICATION

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of United Tribes of North Dakota, I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a meeting of the United Tribes of North Dakota Board of Directors at which a quorum was present, held on the 10th day of September, 2009, in Bismarck, North Dakota, with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 not present.



Myra Pearson
Chairman
Board of Directors
United Tribes of North Dakota

ATTEST:



Marcus Levings
Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors
United Tribes of North Dakota