



SOUTHERN PLAINS TRIBAL HEALTH BOARD

Serving Tribes and Indian Organizations throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas since 1972

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-9

PURPOSE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A WAIVER OF CO-PAYMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES RENDERED AT A VA HEALTH CARE FACILITY FOR AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

- WHEREAS,** the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) since 1972 serves as a unified voice for health-related interests of 43 federally recognized tribes situated in the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service region encompassing the states of Kansas, Oklahoma and a portion of Texas.
- WHEREAS,** the SPTHB recognizes that American Indian people suffer greater health disparities than others living in Oklahoma. The top leading causes of death among Indians in Oklahoma are heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries and diabetes.
- WHEREAS,** Congress has the constitutional authority and responsibility to provide for Indian health care. Tribes signed treaties and negotiated other agreements with the United States in which they ceded vast amounts of territory in exchange for certain solemn promises. These promises include protecting Tribal self-government and providing for the health and well-being of Indian peoples. Indian treaties are the supreme law of the land, and in carrying out these treaty obligations, the United States has “moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust”; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress has passed numerous Indian-specific laws to provide for Indian health care, including establishing the Indian health care system and passing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA), 25 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq. Congress has also legislated to provide Indians with access to general health programs, such as Medicaid, while creating Indian-specific protections within those programs that reflect this unique political relationship; and
- WHEREAS,** there are many American Indian/Alaska Native peoples who have served in the United States military and are eligible for health care services in the Veterans Administration health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration is a federal government program and thereby shares in the federal responsibility to provide healthcare to American Indian/Alaska Native veterans, even if they are eligible for services at Indian health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, in fulfilling that federal responsibility, all co-payments required at Veterans Administration health care facilities should be waived for all American Indian/Alaska Native veterans; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, hat the SPTHB hereby requests a waiver of all co-payments at Veterans Administration health care facilities for all American Indian/Alaska Native veterans.

CERTIFICATION

Voted on and affirmed this _____ day of _____, 2016 with the following voting FOR: _____ and AGAINST: _____ and ABSTAIN: _____.

ATTESTED BY:

Marty Wofford 4-11-17
Chair Date

reel 4-11-17
Vice-Chair Date

Rich Barton 4-11-17
Secretary Date

[Signature] 4-11-17
Treasurer Date