



SOUTHERN PLAINS TRIBAL HEALTH BOARD

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-06

PURPOSE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES PROGRAM AND THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) since 1972 serves as a unified voice for health-related interests of 44 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 Community Health Representatives (CHR) Program was established in 1968, under the authority of the 1921 Snyder Act (25 U.S.C. 13); and
- WHEREAS,** the CHR is a trusted member of the community who is aware of cultural sensitivities and traditions and provides health care, health promotion, transportation, health promotion, and disease prevention services; and
- WHEREAS,** CHRs provide services like in-home patient assessment of medical conditions, providing glucose testing or blood pressure tests to determine if the patient should seek further care, and providing transportation for medical care. They also help interpret prescriptions which is critical to patient safety; and
- WHEREAS,** The Health Education Program provides basic information about the Indian Health Service Health Education Program that encourages partnerships with American Indian/Alaska Natives that results in American Indians becoming active participants in the improvement of their health status by their behavior and lifestyle choices.
- WHEREAS,** The Health Education Program provides school health education, patient education reports, patient education protocols and codes, as well as resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout the United States and Alaska
- WHEREAS,** by providing Health Education Programs and reducing hospital readmissions, CHRs have contributed to lowering mortality rates; and in short, the Health Education Program and

the CHRs are part of the direct provision of health services, especially for the most vulnerable American Indians; and

WHEREAS, On February 12, 2018 the President released his fiscal year (FY) 2019 Budget Request to Congress. The budget would eliminate the Health Education Program and the Community Health Representatives program (currently funded at (\$60 million) and the Health Education Program (currently funded at \$19 million); and

WHEREAS, today, the CHR program is funded through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements based on the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638) and serves as the largest Tribally contracted and compacted program with more than 95% of CHR programs being directly operated by Tribes under P.L. 93-638 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 1,600 CHRs representing over 250 tribes in all 12 IHS Areas; and

WHEREAS, other cuts to Indian Health care would include \$36 million less for Indian health facilities funding, \$38 million less for construction of new and replacement health care facilities that are on the 1993 Health Facilities Construction Project Priority List, and \$3 million less for purchasing and maintain medical equipment; and

WHEREAS, loss of these programs would create permanent loss of capacity and ability to care for the unique set of health needs of Tribal members in their community, as well as a catastrophic reduction of funding across to the board to all Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) requested input from the 573 federally recognized Tribes to develop a unified Tribal message on the importance of the Community Health Representatives program; and the Health Education Program

WHEREAS; the Tribes across the Unites States overwhelmingly responded in support of The Health Education Program and the CHR program; and

WHEREAS; the SPTHB echoes the Tribal Nations in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas in support of The Health Education Program and the CHR program; and

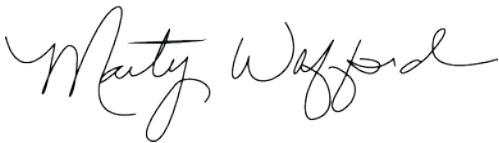
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board officially opposes the attempt to cut The Health Education Program and the CHR program in the FY 2019 President's Budget Request; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, requests that Congress continue to provide funding for The Health Education Program and the Community Health Representative's program through the Indian Health Service.

CERTIFICATION

Voted on and affirmed this **12th** day of **April 2018** with the following voting

ATTESTED BY:



Chair Date 4-10-18



Vice-Chair Date 4-10-18



Secretary Date 4-10-18



Treasurer Date 4-10-18