**[INSERT NAME OF TRIBE OR ORGANIZATION]**

**Resolution [#]**

**Advanced Appropriations for the Indian Health Service**

**WHEREAS, [INSERT ORGANIZATION OR TRIBE INFORMATION]**

**WHEREAS,** the Federal government of the United States has a unique and special relationship with American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) to provide health care as established through the U.S. Constitution Treaties with Indian Tribes, U.S. Supreme Court decisions and Federal legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, although the trust relationship requires the Federal government to provide for the health and welfare of Tribal nations, the Indian Health Service (IHS) remains chronically underfunded at only 56 percent of need, and American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from among the lowest health status nationally; and

**WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of

Health and Human Services, administers health care to 2.2 million AI/ANs residing in Tribal communities in 35 states, directly, or through contracts or compacts with Tribes and Tribal organizations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, Federal appropriation bills have not been enacted in a timely manner, thus hampering Tribal and IHS health care providers’ budgeting, recruitment, retention, provision of services, facility maintenance, and construction efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** since Fiscal Year 1998, there has only been one year (FY2006) in which the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill has been enacted before the beginning of the new fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the budgetary solution to this failure to uphold the Federal trust responsibility, and the one which does not require the Congressional appropriations committees to count Advanced Appropriations against their spending cap is Advanced Appropriations; and

**WHEREAS**, [**INSERT NAME OF TRIBE OR ORGANIZATION]** believes that moving to the Advanced Appropriations process protect the Tribes and the IHS direct service units from cash flow problems that regularly occur at the start of the Federal fiscal year due to delays in enactment of annual appropriations legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has recognized the difficulties inherent in the provision of direct health care that relies on the appropriations process and traditional funding cycle through enactment of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (PL 111-81), which authorized Advanced Appropriations for Veterans Administration (VA) medical care programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the IHS should be afforded the same budgetary certainty and protections extended to the VA which is also a federally-funded provider of direct health care; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that [**INSERT NAME OF TRIBE OR ORGANIZATION]** requests that Congress amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize Advanced Appropriations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that [**INSERT NAME OF TRIBE OR ORGANIZATION]** requests that Congress include our recommendation for IHS Advanced Appropriations in the Budget Resolution; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, [**INSERT NAME OF TRIBE OR ORGANIZATION]** requests that Congress include in the enacted appropriations bill IHS Advanced Appropriations; and

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the **[INSERT NAME OF TRIBE OR ORGANIZATION]**, with quorum present, on **[DATE]**.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[INSERT SIGNATURE]**

**[Name, Title of signer]**