

RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
(Approving Nation's Written Comments in Response to Second Phase of Consultation
on the Proposed Strategic Realignment of the Indian Health Service)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-059

1 **WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation vests the Legislative Council with
2 the authority to "promote, protect and provide for public health, peace, morals,
3 education and general welfare of the Tohono O'odham Nation and its members"
4 and to "consult, negotiate and conclude agreements and contracts on behalf of
5 the Tohono O'odham Nation with federal, State and local governments and other
6 Indian tribes ..." (Constitution, Article VI, Section I(c)(2) and Section 1(1)); and
7 **WHEREAS,** the Constitution also vests the Legislative Council with the authority to "consult
8 with the Congress of the United States and appropriate federal agencies
9 regarding federal activities that affect the Tohono O'odham Nation and all federal
10 appropriation estimates and projects for the benefit of the Tohono O'odham
11 Nation before such estimates and projects are submitted to Congress and other
12 federal agencies" (Constitution, Article VI, Section I(j));
13 **WHEREAS,** written comments submitted on the Nation's behalf to federal, state, and local
14 governments on proposed rules, regulations, and laws or on actions or proposed
15 actions that may affect the Nation require Legislative Council approval (1 Tohono
16 O'odham Code Chapter 3); and
17 **WHEREAS,** on June 13, 2025 the Indian Health Service provided a Dear Tribal Leader Letter
18 initiating consultation on the proposed strategic realignment of the Indian
19 Health Service, and pursuant to Resolution No. 25-253 the Nation submitted
20 comments in response; and
21 **WHEREAS,** on December 5, 2025, the Indian Health Service provided a Dear Tribal Leader
22 Letter initiating a second round of consultation on the proposed strategic
23 realignment of the Indian Health Service, this time providing an executive
24 narrative, draft organization chart and frequently asked questions as supporting
25 materials; and
26 **WHEREAS,** because despite provision of this additional information, many of the Nation's
27 outstanding questions and concerns about the proposed strategic realignment
28 remain unanswered, the Health and Human Services and Appropriations
29 Committees requested and drafted the Nation's written comments in response to
30 the proposed strategic realignment, which are incorporated by this reference;
31 and
32

RESOLUTION NO. 26-059

(Approving Nation's Written Comments in Response to Second Phase of Consultation on the Proposed Strategic Realignment of the Indian Health Service)

Page 2 of 3

1 **WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees, in the best**
2 **interests of the Nation and Nation's members, recommend approval of the**
3 **Nation's written comments and urge communication of the Nation's concerns to**
4 **the Nation's congressional delegation, as appropriate.**

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council approves the**
6 **Nation's written comments in response to the second round of federal**
7 **consultation on the proposed strategic realignment of the Indian Health Service**
8 **and authorizes the Nation's chairperson or official designee to submit the**
9 **comments prior to the February 27, 2026 deadline.**

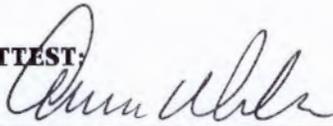
10 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council that it authorizes the**
11 **Nation's chairperson, or his designee to communicate the Nation's concerns to**
12 **the Nation's congressional delegation, as appropriate.**

13 **The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council on the 11TH**
14 **day of FEBRUARY 2026 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 3,321.1 FOR;**
15 **-0- AGAINST; -0- NOT VOTING; and [05] ABSENT, pursuant to the powers vested in the Council by**
16 **Article VI, Section 1(c)(2) and Section 1(1) and (j) of the Constitution of the Tohono O'odham**
17 **Nation, adopted by the Tohono O'odham Nation on January 18, 1986; and approved by the Acting**
18 **Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations) on March 6, 1986, pursuant to Section**
19 **16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984).**

20
21
22 **TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

23
24
25 
26 **Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman**
27
28 17TH day of February, 2026
29
30

31
32 **ATTEST:**

33 
34
35 **Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary**

36 13 day of February, 2026
37
38

39 **Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the Chairman of the Tohono**
40 **O'odham Nation on the 17TH day of February, 2026 at 4:46 o'clock, P.m.,**
41 **pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of Article VII of the Constitution and will become**
42 **effective upon his approval or upon his failure to either approve or disapprove it within 48**
43 **hours of submittal.**
44

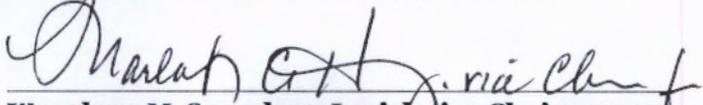
RESOLUTION NO. 26-059

(Approving Nation's Written Comments in Response to Second Phase of Consultation on the Proposed Strategic Realignment of the Indian Health Service)

Page 3 of 3

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL


Wavalene M. Saunders, Legislative Chairwoman

APPROVED

on the 17 day of February, 2026

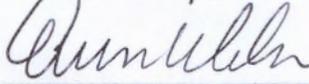
DISAPPROVED

at 5:00 o'clock, P.m.


VERLON M. JOSE, CHAIRMAN
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 18 day of

February, 2026, at 8:50 o'clock, 2.m.


Evonne Wilson, Legislative Secretary

ACTION: APPROVING NATION'S WRITTEN COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO SECOND PHASE OF CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED STRATEGIC REALIGNMENT OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

MOVED: COUNCILMAN DANIEL L.A. PRESTON III

SECOND: COUNCILMAN LUCIUS E. LOPEZ

DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2026

DISTRICT	LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES	# OF VOTES	FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING	ABSENT
SIF OIDAK 251.2	1. WAVALENE M. SAUNDERS (Mary Lopez) 2. FRANCIS HOMEWYTEWA ()	125.6 125.6	X X			X
SELLS 565.7	1. JANET B. ELEANDO () 2. EVELYN JUAN MANUEL (Juan Buendia)	282.85 282.85	X X			
SCHUK TOAK 195.3	1. THEORIA CAMPILLO (Rebecca Ann Valentine) 2. DELISA M. RAMON (Quintin C. Lopez)	97.65 97.65	X X			
SAN XAVIER 249.8	1. DANIEL L.A. PRESTON III () 2. JANICE FELIX ()	124.9 124.9	X X			
SAN LUCY 266.3	1. GLORIA M. RAMIREZ (<i>Absent</i>) (Lorraine M. Eiler) (<i>Present</i>) 2. ROGER MANUEL (<i>Absent</i>) (Christina Andrews) (<i>Present</i>)	133.15 133.15	X X			X
PISINEMO 240.3	1. PAMELA J. BENAVIDEZ (Nora J. Ruelas) 2. NAOMI MONTE (Edward D. Manuel)	120.15 120.15	X X			
HICKIWAN 222.9	1. LOUIS R. LOPEZ (Loretta A. Ortega) 2. DELMA M. GARCIA ()	111.45 111.45	X X			
GU VO 279.6	1. LESLIE LUNA () 2. BENNETT CHEWING ()	139.8 139.8	X X			X
GU ACHI 289.2	1. JEROME F. JOAQUIN (Gloria Johnson) 2. LUCIUS E. LOPEZ (Victoria A. Hobbs)	144.6 144.6	X X			
CHUKUT KUK 361.9	1. MARLAKAV HENRY () 2. VIVIAN JUAN-SAUNDERS (<i>Absent</i>) (Cornelius Antone) (<i>Present</i>)	180.95 180.95	X X			X
BABOQIVARI 398.9	1. JESSE NAVARRO () 2. NED NORRIS, JR. (<i>Absent</i>) (Leander Mase) (<i>Present</i>)	199.45 199.45	X X			X
	TOTAL	3,321.1	3,321.1	-0-	-0-	[05]