

RESOLUTION OF THE PAPAGO COUNCIL

RES. NO. 50-74

WHEREAS, the Executive Health Staff has told the Papago Council that the U.S. Congress is studying plans for a National Health Insurance policy for all U.S. citizens and plans to vote upon this before June of 1975; and

WHEREAS, such a National Health Insurance plan will impact upon the Indian Health Service and upon the health care mechanisms for Papago and all other Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the present National Health Insurance plans have no provisions for special Indian health care rights and needs and therefore are likely to have a negative impact on the quality of Indian health care and on the present Indian right to free health care; and

WHEREAS, the present plans do in several ways threaten the autonomy and sovereignty of Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, there is a general lack of awareness and understanding of National Health Insurance among Indian Tribes and people and there is no group now leading nor coordinating an Indian voice into the current congressional planning; and

WHEREAS, the Papago Executive Health Staff has already sponsored a two day seminar (October 23rd & 24th) on National Health Insurance for 40 members of the EHS, the Tribal Council, field health workers, community members and the Tribal attorney and has continued to meet to study and discuss NHI plans; and

WHEREAS, seminar participants did unanimously agree on several general principles; specifically:

1. That the present Federal responsibility for Health care of American Indians must be continued.
2. That the Indian Health Service and its present health benefit package must be continued, expanded and improved; including funding of direct care; transportation; field health services; environmental health services; contract care money; and Tribal health programs.
3. That Tribal sovereignty must be continued and strengthened and that Tribes and their health services should not be subject to state or non-Indian local control, regulation or interference.
4. That Indian people should not be taxed nor charged in any way for health care, services, nor insurance.
5. That the present development of Tribally controlled health systems appropriate to local needs must be continued and expanded.
6. That there is a need for a drastically increased budget for Indian Health Service and its associated Tribal Health Care Systems.

; and

WHEREAS, seminar agreed to a need for a national effort and National Indian Conference to inform Indian Tribes and people from throughout the U.S. about National Health Insurance plans and to involve them in developing a positive Indian role in final legislation; and

WHEREAS, the seminar recommended that the EHS and other volunteers from the October seminar participants should, if necessary, undertake to lead the planning and implementing of such a conference, and

WHEREAS, there is still no other Indian group which is active in this area and the EHS and seminar volunteers have continued to meet and discuss this

this issue, together with representatives of the San Xavier Health Board and have prepared and received tentative approval of a proposal to IHS in Washington for funds and technical assistance to organize and hold a National Indian Conference on National Health Insurance; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of related issues which are of critical and immediate importance to Papago and other Indian Tribes, including: the definition of Service Unit Area Boundaries; and Tribal participation in off reservation non-IHS health care programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PAPAGO COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Papago Council shares the concerns of the EHS and the October seminar about possible negative effects of National Health Insurance on Indian people.
2. The Papago Council agrees to the need for further study and discussion of this legislation and to the need for a National Indian Conference on National Health Insurance.
3. The Papago Council authorizes and supports the EHS application to IHS/or other agencies for funds and assistance to organize, conduct, and follow-up on such a National Conference.
4. The Papago Council does authorize the EHS, together with representatives of the Papago Council, Papago Community, San Xavier Health Board, and the National Indian Health Board, to organize, implement such a National Indian Conference within the next eight (8) months. And the Council does understand that this task will require a substantial time commitment by the EHS staff.
5. The Papago Council does support each of the six (6) general principles outlined above and does authorize their publication as a preliminary statement of Position of the Papago Council, subject to changes and additions based on further study and discussion during the next several months.
6. The Papago Council does direct that the EHS make monthly reports concerning this issue to the Council until such time as a final position paper and final legislation is completed and approved.



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The foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by the Papago Council on the 6th day of December, 1974, at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 21 for, 0 against, 1 not voting and 0 absent, pursuant to authority vested in the Papago Council by Article V, Section 2 (d) of the Constitution and By-laws of the Papago Tribe of Arizona, ratified by the Tribe on December 12, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 6, 1937, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. Said Resolution is effective as of the date of its approval by the Superintendent of the Papago Agency and is subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior.

THE PAPAGO COUNCIL

Jacob A. Escalante, Chairman

ATTEST:

Delma M. Garcia, Secretary

Superintendent, Papago Agency

APPROVED: 1-8-75