



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Opposing the Fiscal Year 2019 IHS Budget Request that Defunds the Community Health Representatives Program and Health Education Program)

- WHEREAS,** Congress had declared that it is a policy of the United States, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligations to the American Indian people, to assure the highest possible health status for Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy and to raise the health status of Indians to at least the levels set forth in the goals contained within the Healthy People 2010 initiative or successor objectives; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") advocates for policies that protect and enhance the quality of life of the people residing on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and operates Community Health Representative ("CHR") and Health Education program contracts with IHS under the authority of P.L. 93-638, as amended; and
- WHEREAS,** the CHR and Health Education programs consist of community based Tribal paraprofessionals who serve as intermediaries between health service providers and community members to provide the health of the White Mountain Apache people as a priority and provides beneficial health care services to Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** CHR and Health Education programs collaborate with Tribal programs to expand health care service delivery for its residents, including and especially with Public Health Nurses and other IHS professionals; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe strongly supports continuation and full funding for the CHR and Health Education line items in the Indian Health Service budget because there are a significant number of high-risk health disparities that effect the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** eliminating funding for the CHR and Health Education program will hinder the ability of the Tribe to meet the health care needs of those who suffer from chronic and infectious diseases as well as its ability to continue broader health care awareness and education; and
- WHEREAS,** CHR's who serve as liaisons between health care providers and patients, are trained to respond to and help patients manage various chronic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, that adversely impact the lives of residents, and
- WHEREAS,** IHS must initiate a consultation meeting with all the Tribes as soon as possible before any dismantling of the CHR and Health Education programs occur, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Division of Health Programs manages Community Health Representatives and Health Educators Programs and the Tribal Council finds it in the

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best interest of the Tribe for the respective program personnel to be engaged in discussions to address health needs and education of community members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby concludes that IHS must maintain the CHR and Health Education programs as they are deemed necessary programs to meet the goals of IHS to raise quality health status for American Indian and Alaska Natives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes Chairwoman, Gwendena Lee-Gatewood or Vice-Chairman, Jerome Kessay to negotiate and execute any and all agreements and contracts pertaining to the Community Health Representative Movement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **JULY 11, 2018** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

	<u>8.16.18</u>		<u>8.16.18</u>
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman	Date	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date