

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Resolution # 03-0611-165

Support for Amendments to Federal Law Addressing Indian Medicare Issues

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek* (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(a) to provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has created a Health Center for the purposes of providing health care services to members through federal and tribal funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is currently faced with inequities in the federal Medicare systems which prohibit Tribes from being allowed to bill Medicare for activities currently allowed by other health care providers; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bingaman is interested in introducing legislation to address these inequities by -

- a proposed amendment to enable certain Indian hospitals and clinics to collect for the full scope of Part B Medicare services,
- placing a Medicare-like rate ceiling on charges for inpatient hospital services provided to Indians through a Contract Health Service Program, and
- making all IHS-funded ambulatory care clinics eligible to collect Medicare reimbursements at the all-inclusive rate established annually by IHS/CMS; and

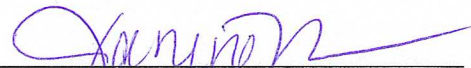
WHEREAS, these amendments assist Tribal health centers across the nation which provides benefits and services to Tribal members, including those members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe's Health Center provides services, the cost of which could be offset by increased billings allowed by one or more of these proposed amendments, which would assist the Tribe in providing additional health care services to the members; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby requests Senators Debbie A. Stabenow and Carl Levin to support this legislation being presented in the Senate as an opportunity to allow Tribes, through their Health Clinics, to provided needed services to their members by amending the Medicare amendments being proposed by Senator Bingaman

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 9 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 0 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on June 11, 2003, at the Little River Band's Community Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Janine M. Sam, Council Recorder



Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
Tribal Court
Legal Department