

North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

Resolution No. 2-2022

Title – Support of Medicaid Expansion

Purpose – The purpose of the Resolution is to acknowledge the NC Commission of Indian Affairs' support of Medicaid Expansion in the State of North Carolina on behalf of the state's American Indian population.

Whereas, North Carolina is home to eight state-recognized Indian tribes, which include: the Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony, and Waccamaw-Siouan; and

Whereas, North Carolina is also home to four Urban Indian Organizations that hold membership on the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, which includes: the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, Guilford Native American Association, Metrolina Native American Association, and Triangle Native American Society; and

Whereas, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, there are more than 130,000 American Indian citizens residing in North Carolina, representing the second-largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River, and the seventh-largest American Indian population in the United States; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs was created under NCGS 143B-405 in 1971, by the NC General Assembly, with statutory purposes requiring the Commission to deal fairly and effectively with Indian affairs, to provide aid and protection for Indians as needs are demonstrated, to prevent undue hardships, to educate state citizens about American Indians; and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will save American Indian lives by providing access to affordable healthcare thereby increasing care for cancer, heart disease, and result in fewer people skipping their medications and medical appointments due to the cost of such, and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will increase access to mental health and substance use treatment. Untreated mental illness can lead to homelessness, involvement with the criminal justice system, and trauma to children, and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will provide affordable healthcare coverage for more than 100,000 low-income parents with children, including thousands of parents of children with special needs, and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will result in a healthier workforce in American Indian communities, thereby increasing the potential for employment, business expansion, etc., and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will improve health options for American Indian veterans who cannot afford healthcare by providing them with access to affordable healthcare services, and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will result in healthier living and affordable healthcare services in rural low-wealth American Indian communities in North Carolina.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that the NC Commission of Indian Affairs is hereby going on record in support of the Honorable Governor Roy Cooper and the NC General Assembly of North Carolina's efforts to implement Medicaid Expansion in the State of North Carolina, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, that the NC Commission of Indian Affairs is going on record in support of Medicaid Expansion because it will provide a more inclusive, affordable, and accessible system of health care for all North Carolinians, but in particular the American Indian people of the state of North Carolina.

CERTIFICATION

The preceding resolution was adopted by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on the 2nd day of December 2022 by a vote of 21 for 0 against 0 abstentions.



Ricky Burnett, Chairperson
NC Commission of Indian Affairs



Nadine Patrick, Secretary
NC Commission of Indian Affairs