

**E M E R G E N C Y  
R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Health & Human Services to support and recommend passage of the legislation in Washington Legislature to authorize Federally-recognized tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations authorized under his Indian Health Care Improvement Act to train and employ Dental Health Aide Therapist to provide services in Tribal communities.

Whereas, American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) have a very limited access to health care services and are disproportionately affected by oral health disease and these disparities are directly attributed to the lack of dental professionals in Indian communities, which has caused a serious access issue and backlog of dental treatment among (AI/AN) people; and

Whereas, many Washington Tribes have great difficulty and face a significant challenge in recruiting dental health professionals to work in Indian communities that result in further challenges in ensuring oral health care for tribal members; and

Whereas, Washington State and its legislatures have a strong history of government-to-government relationship with Tribes and have historically supported efforts of Washington Tribes to address health issues among tribal members and to reduce the disproportionate number of AI/AN people affected by health disparities; and

Whereas, one of the goals in the "2010-2013 American Indian Health Care Delivery Plan" developed jointly by Washington Department of Health (DOH) and the American Indian Health Commission of Washington State (AIHC) is to improve the oral health of tribal members and the ability of tribes to provide comprehensive dental services in their communities, which a critical objective to achieving this goal by "... Exploring options for the use of trained/certified expanded function personnel in order to increase oral health care services and tribal communities."

Whereas, two bills (HB2466 and SB6275) were introduced in 2014 legislative session to authorize Dental Health Aide Therapist to be allowed in Tribal health programs carrying out services with the federal government under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638); and

Whereas, DHATs work under the general supervision of a dentist, performing cleaning, fillings, and simple extractions and present a tremendous opportunity for addressing the unmet dental care needs in Washington's tribal communities and there have been many research studies that demonstrate safety and quality of care provided by DHATs; and

Whereas, HB2466 and SB6275 authorizes DHATs to work only in Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal and Urban Indian (I/T/U) programs authorized under Indian Health Care

Improvement Act and not in the general population of Washington State and would serve to greatly expand dental care to the state's most needy children and families.

Whereas, the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board and many others Tribal organizations have adopted and approved legislation creating a licensing program for DHATSs to improve access to dental services and the health of rural, tribal and unserved populations.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Colville Business Council, by authority of Resolution 1991-431 (10 affirmative signatures on this recommendation sheet, an emergency) this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014, acting for and in behalf of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Nespelem, Washington, do hereby approve the above recommendation of the Health & Human Services Committee.

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Colville Business Council by a vote of **10 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAINED**, under authority contained in Article V, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, ratified by the Colville Indians on February 26, 1938, and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in April 19, 1938.

ATTEST:



James L. Boyd, Chairperson  
Colville Business Council

cc: Andy Joseph Jr. Committee Chair  
Trisha Jack, CBC Recording Sec.  
Francis Somday, Executive Director  
Debra Wulff, BIA Superintendent  
Anna Vargas, Reservation Attorney  
David Osenga, Comptroller  
Dept. or Program: Andy Joseph Jr - CBC



# Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Nespelem, Washington

TO: COLVILLE BUSINESS COUNCIL

DATE: September 22, 2014

FROM: Health & Human Services Committee

**SUBJECT: Supports enactment of a bill in the Washington Legislature to authorize Federally-recognized Indian Tribes and Tribal Organization to train an employee Dental Health Aide Therapists to perform services and Tribal Communities.**

Initiated By: Andy Joseph Jr.

Program: Colville Business Council

Committee Recommendations: Whereas, American Indians and Alaska Natives ( AI/AN) have a very limited access to health care services and are disproportionately affected by oral health disease and these disparities are directly attributed to the lack of dental professionals in Indian communities, which has caused a serious access issue and backlog of dental treatment among (AI/AN) people; and

Whereas, many Washington Tribes great difficulty and face a significant challenge in recruiting dental health professionals to work in Indian communities that result in further challenges in ensuring oral health care for tribal members; and

Whereas, Washington State and its legislatures have a strong history of government-to- government relationship with Tribes and have historically supported efforts of Washington Tribes to address health issues among tribal members and to reduce the disproportionate number of AI/AN people affected by health disparities; and

Whereas, one of the goals in the "2010 - 2013 American Indian Health Care Delivery Plan" developed jointly by Washington Department of Health (DOH) and the American Indian Health Commission of Washington State (AIHC) is to improve the oral health of tribal members and the ability of tribes to provide comprehensive dental services in their communities, which a critical objective to achieving this goal by "... Exploring options for the use of trained/certified expanded function personnel in order to increase oral health care services and tribal communities."

Whereas, two bills (HB2466 and SB 6275) were introduced in 2014 legislative session to authorize Dental Health Aide Therapist to be allowed in Tribal health programs carrying out services with the federal government under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ( P.L. 93-638); and

Whereas,DHATs work under the general supervision of a dentist, performing cleanings, fillings, and simple extractions and present a tremendous opportunity for addressing the unmet dental care needs in Washington's tribal communities and there have been many research studies that demonstrate safety and quality of care provided by DHATS; and

Whereas,HB 2466 andSB 6275 authorizesDHATs to work only in Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal and Urban Indian (I/T/U) programs authorized under Indian Health Care Improvement Act and not in the general population of Washington State and wouldc serve to greatly expand dental care to the state's most needy children and families.

Whereas, the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board and many others Tribal organizations have adopted and approved

legislation creating a licensing program for DHATs to improve access to dental services and the health of rural, tribal and unserved populations.

Therefore be it resolved, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian reservation hereby supports and recommends passage of the legislation in Washington Legislature to authorize Federally-recognized tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations authorized under his Indian Health Care Improvement Act to train and employ Dental Health Aide Therapist to provide services in Tribal communities.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**VOTE CAST**  
(YES) (NO)

Andrew S. Joseph  
White  
Janet Ferguson  
Theresa Johnson  
Theresa Johnson  
Joseph Sunday  
Michelle

✓  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**VOTE CAST**  
(YES) (NO)

John Manuel  
Neil  
Kathy

X  
X  
X  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Business Council Actions:

Seconded by:

10 FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
0 NAY \_\_\_\_\_  
0 ABSTAINED \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Andrew S. Joseph  
Committee Chairperson  
Signed: [Signature]  
CBC Chairperson  
Date Enacted: 9-30-14

Amendments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency (10 Affirmative Signatures) Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_