



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE SUPPORT FOR WISCONSIN DENTAL THERAPY INITIATIVES

RESOLUTION 04-10-19 A

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Constitution"), formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Legislature") is the duly constituted governing body of the Nation pursuant to the Nation's Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(a) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(i) of the Constitution empowers the Legislature to negotiate and enter into treaties, compacts, contracts, and agreements with other governments, organizations or individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(s) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to promote public health, education, charity and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian(s) and Alaskan Native(s) ("AI/AN") have limited access to health care services and are disproportionately affected by oral health disease, with these disparities directly attributed to the lack of dental professionals in Indian communities, which has caused a serious issue and backlog of dental treatment among AI/AN people; and
- WHEREAS,** according to federal statistics, a staggering sixty-four (64) of the seventy-two (72) counties in Wisconsin face dentist shortages; and
- WHEREAS,** over one (1) million Wisconsin citizens who depend on Medicaid for dental benefits face additional barriers, as only thirty-seven percent (37%) of current Wisconsin dentists accept Medicaid patients; and

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WHEREAS, this lack of access has resulted in Wisconsin ranking forty-fifth (45th) of all states in the number of Medicaid children who saw a dentist in 2017; and

WHEREAS, dental therapists are currently authorized to practice in a number of countries, states, and tribal territories; and

WHEREAS, dental therapists provide dental therapy services under the general supervision of a licensed dentist with whom the dental therapist has a collaborative management agreement that addresses various aspects of the dental therapist's practice; and

WHEREAS, supervision by a dentist requires the dentist's prior knowledge and consent, but does not require the presence of the dentist at the time of a task or procedure being performed or prior examination or diagnosis of a patient by a dentist prior to the provision of dental therapy services by a dental therapist; and

WHEREAS, the state of Wisconsin is currently considering a variety of measures that would allow for dental therapists to practice within the state of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Wisconsin has proposed within his 2019-2021 budget to increase access to dental services in the state in part by creating a mid-level dental provider to address dental provider shortages in Wisconsin, and provide \$1,500,000 over the biennium to educational institutions to fund the development of dental therapist training programs; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2019 Assembly Bill 81 was introduced within the Wisconsin Legislature for the purpose of authorizing the practice of dental therapists within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Statement of the Nation's Department of Health is to provide a high level of health care essential to the improvement of the quality of life within the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's Department of Health has historically struggled in the provision of high quality oral health care due to several factors, including the Nation facing significant challenges in recruiting dental health professionals to work within the Nation's communities; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of dental therapists in the State of Wisconsin will help the Nation's Department of Health in meeting its mission;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nation's Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, hereby endorses its support for Wisconsin dental initiatives that establish new licensure and scope of practice for dental therapists in Wisconsin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature authorizes and directs the Nation's Department of Health to advise the Nation's lobbyists, legal counsel, and leadership on positions expressed within this resolution for the purpose of lobbying to appropriate state officials, agencies, departments, and other tribal officials.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary for the Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certify that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of **13 members**, of whom **12** constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held on the **10th day of April, 2019**, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by an affirmed vote of **11 members, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining**, pursuant to the authority of Article V, Section 2 (a) and (x) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.



Andrea Estebo, Tribal Secretary

04.10.2019

Date