



## HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

*Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation*

### HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

#### SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL 2023 BUDGET PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT BIDEN AND AUTHORIZATION TO ENGAGE IN SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

#### RESOLUTION 04-21-22 A

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation (“Nation”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution (“Constitution”) gives the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature (“Legislature”) the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive branch to be administered by such Departments, in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(i) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power 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 Ho-Chunk 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,** at a recent meeting of the Legislative Finance Commission, a request was made by the Nation’s Executive Director of Health to have the Legislature advocate for the 2023 federal budget presented by United States President Joe Biden, especially in the area of health equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

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**WHEREAS,** according to reports, President Biden’s 2023 budget significantly increases the Indian Health Service’s (IHS’s) funding over time, and shifts it from discretionary to mandatory funding; and since the funding would be mandatory, it also would be tied to the medical rate of inflation, salary growth and population growth and be safe from sequestration cuts — thus creating predictability, stability and adequacy in Indian Health Service funding; further, if enacted by Congress, such spending targets would make important, lifesaving strides toward improving the health, public health and infrastructure of the Indian/tribal and urban health systems upon which millions of Native Americans rely and the Federal Trust Responsibility and Treaty obligations require; and

**WHEREAS,** President Biden’s proposed IHS budget specifically includes \$9.1 billion in mandatory funding, an increase of \$2.9 billion above 2021, which would provide IHS with stable and predictable funding that will improve access to high quality healthcare, rectify historical underfunding of the Indian Health system, eliminate existing facilities backlogs, address health inequities, and modernize IHS’ electronic health record system; and

**WHEREAS,** President Biden’s 2023 budget proposal has been informed by consultations with Tribal Nations on the issue of IHS funding and will be further refined based on ongoing consultation; and

**WHEREAS,** the Legislature, as the governmental body authorized to interact and negotiate with other governments, finds it appropriate to advocate for policies and programs with the federal government that promote public health, education, charity, and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** the Legislature finds it appropriate to support the request from the Nation’s Executive Director of Health, and the IHS healthcare equity budget initiatives in the 2023 budget by President Biden; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, hereby supports the 2023 budget proposed by President Biden, as it relates to the IHS budget and health equity for American Indians;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Legislature authorizes a letter of support to be submitted by the Vice President of the Nation to the Biden Administration and appropriate Congressional Representatives, in furtherance of this Legislative Resolution;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislature authorizes Legislators, approved Legislative staff and contracted professionals to engage in governmental relations consistent with this Legislative Resolution, as coordinated with the acknowledgment of the Vice President.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certify that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of 13 members of whom 13 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2022, adopted the foregoing resolution at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 13 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

  
Rep Stephanie Begay, Tribal Secretary

04.21.22  
Date