



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Eighth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 19-21, 2023
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 23-16

Title: Support for Congressional Legislation to Improve Public Health Data Access Among
Tribal Epidemiology Centers

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 35,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, concern about the lack of sufficient public health surveillance and data for disease control for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations made way for Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TEC) to be established under the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) in 1996; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, TECs have provided epidemiological and public health functions critical to the delivery of healthcare and public health services for the Indian health care system comprised of Indian Health Service (IHS) Direct, Tribal 638, and Urban Indian Health Program (UIHP); and

WHEREAS, today the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center serves Alaska Native communities across the IHS Alaska Area and the Urban Indian Health Institute serves AI/AN people living in urban areas nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's citizens reside in villages and urban communities in Alaska and throughout the United States and rely on the work of TECs for data, evaluation, and research services that support the healthcare and public health needs of tribal and urban Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, TECs were designated as public health authorities in 2010 by the permanent reauthorization of S. 1790: Indian Health Care Improvement Act in Title X Part III of PL 111-148: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, that congressional authorization allows TECs to access Health and Human Services (HHS) data as public health authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has delayed access to COVID-19 Case Surveillance Data and continues to deny TECs access to other public health data such as the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) and National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS); and

WHEREAS, a failure to grant timely and consistent data access perpetuates systemic health inequities in tribal and urban AI/AN communities because analysis of NNDSS data and other CDC collected COVID-19 data is critical to prevent, prepare, and respond to both current and future surges of epidemics using data-driven decision-making; and

WHEREAS, most data on AI/AN populations are collected and maintained by nonindigenous entities including city, county, state, and federal public health entities that create fragmented data systems about AI/AN people and communities; and

WHEREAS, TECs are uniquely qualified as public health authorities and therefore best positioned to advise and lead the appropriate collection and analysis of AI/AN health data and must be allowed to fully operate as public health authorities alongside local, state, and federal entities by upholding their statutory roles and authorities; and

WHEREAS, TECs continue to advocate for public health data sharing among CDC, states, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and TECs to ensure access to AI/AN public health data to inform healthcare and public health practices, programs, and policies that strengthen the health of Native communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 19-21, 2023, hereby supports public health data access among Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tlingit & Haida President shall send letters in support of TECs access to public health data to the Alaska, Washington and California delegations in Washington, D.C.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2023, by the Eighty-Eighth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata