

JANUARY 2002 CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE

RESOLUTION NO. LR0203

INTRODUCED BY: OLIVER COSTA, ARROW CREEK DISTRICT

A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE CROW TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATIVE BRANCH DIRECT THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) PROVIDE AN EMERGENCY CLINIC AND AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE PRYOR COMMUNITY ON THE CROW RESERVATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the members of the Crow Tribe of Indians is a paramount concern of the Legislative Branch of Government; and

WHEREAS, there has been a large number of automobile accidents and other accident where both Crow Tribal Members and Non-Indians have suffered serious injuries in or near the Town of Pryor; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of an emergency response team or personnel including a medical clinic and/or ambulance service in Pryor, many injured persons die unnecessarily since the current medical responders are dispatched from Hardin and take nearly two (2) hours to reach the accident scene which is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, a twenty-four hour medical clinic in Pryor and/or ambulance service would alleviate the response issue since medical personnel would be available to render first aid to accident victims during the critical stages immediately following an accident lessening the extent of injuries and possibly avoiding unnecessary death in some cases; and

WHEREAS, Crow Tribal Members residing in Pryor often suffer medical emergencies after business hours and on weekends when the medical clinic is closed resulting in a trip to Billings and treatment in an emergency room or other medical clinic which IHS often refuses to pay due to its perception that the situation did not constitute an emergency or funding for such emergency is not available; and

WHEREAS, the consequence of IHS's refusal to pay for such treatment is that the Crow Tribal Member is turned over to a collections agency for the unpaid balance and his/her credit is severely damaged since the non-payment is also reported to various credit agencies resulting in poor credit histories; and

WHEREAS, non-payment and credit problems could be avoided altogether if the IHS would work with the Crow Tribe to develop and implement an after hour medical emergency policy and procedure for Crow Tribal Members to follow to ensure payment by IHS prior to

treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Crow Tribe, its members and the IHS to develop the aforementioned policy and procedure since it would ultimately save money spent on the resolution of billing disputes and litigation.

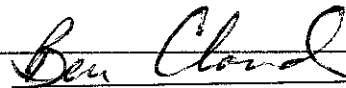
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE CROW TRIBE:

That the Crow Tribal Legislative Branch requests the Indian Health Service meet with the Chief of Health and Human Services of the Crow Tribe as well as the Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services to begin negotiations for the provision of a twenty-four hour medical clinic and ambulance service in Pryor to alleviate unnecessary deaths of Tribal members and non-Indians due to the current lack of medical personnel and ambulance service.

That the Crow Tribal Legislative Branch further requests the Indian Health Service meet with the Chief of Health and Human Services of the Crow Tribe as well as the Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services to develop and implement an after hour medical emergency policy and procedure for Crow Tribal Members to follow to ensure payment by IHS prior to treatment.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this Resolution was duly approved by the Crow Tribal Legislature with a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained and that a quorum was present on this 7 day of February, 2002.



Ben Cloud
Speaker of the House
Crow Tribal Legislature