RESOLUTION OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, American Indians suffer the greatest number of disabling conditions of all ethnic groups in the United States, and disabling conditions now include AIDS and some diabetics; and
- WHEREAS, American Indian infants are being born with a disabling condition at three times the rate of all other babies born in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, American Indian young men have a seven times greater chance of becoming disabled before their 26th birthday than any other race of people in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, American Indian elders develop disabilities from health related problems at a rate of 30% greater than other Americans of their age; and
- WHEREAS, research has indicated that nearly eighty-five percent of all the disabilities prevalent among American Indians can be prevented or rehabilitated; and
- WHEREAS, neither the Indian Health Service nor the Bureau of Indian Affairs is programmed to respond to the specific needs of disabled Indian people, either in prevention, care, or rehabilitation; and
- WHEREAS, state prevention and rehabilitation services seldom reach urban Indians and almost never cross the lines onto reservations; and
- WHEREAS, with the exception of fourteen <u>Section 130 Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs</u> in the United States, there are no services on Indian reservations specifically to address the needs of disabled American Indians; and
- WHEREAS, no other committee exists within the NCAI that addresses the prevention, care, habilitation and rehabilitation needs critical to disabled American Indians; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe concludes that the NCAI should establish a committee on disabilities.
- BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby petitions the full congress of the National Congress of American Indians to establish within its Issues Committees a COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES.

The foregoing resolution was on November 9, 1990, duly adopted by a vote of <u>EIGHT</u> for and <u>ZERO</u> against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1(a,u) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Chairman of the Tribal Council

Secretary of the Tribal Council

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