



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Urging AHCCS to Extend an Uncapped Dental Benefit for Pregnant Women Eligible for Medicaid)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the powers “To represent the tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and
- WHEREAS,** Professional dental care and good at-home oral health routine are an essential part of a healthy pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS,** Dental screenings are an important method for expectant mothers with, or at high risk of, developing oral diseases; and
- WHEREAS,** Pregnancy often causes changes in the mouth including gingivitis, and can also lead to worsening of periodontitis which can lead to the destruction of the bone supporting the teeth; and
- WHEREAS,** There exists a link between gum infection and poor birth outcomes like pre-term deliveries, lower birth weight, and high blood pressure can lead to complicated deliveries; and
- WHEREAS,** Dental care during pregnancy continues to remain low due to lack of insurance, gaps in knowledge about recommended oral health practices, and unfounded concerns over safety of dental procedures during pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS,** Currently, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Systems (AHCCCS), the State’s Medicaid program, does not provide dental coverage to adults with the exception two limited exceptions; and
- WHEREAS,** The White Mountain Apache Tribe finds that advocating for wellness and access to high quality healthcare for all American Indians in Arizona with regard to the development of Title of XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (Children’s Health Insurance Program) programs, services, and policies is in the best interest of the Tribe and its members.
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council hereby urges the Arizona State Legislature, Governor Ducey and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Systems to extend an uncapped dental benefit for pregnant women eligible for Medicaid.

Resolution No. 05-2019-95

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on MAY 1, 2019 duly adopted by a vote of TEN for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 5/6/19
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwomen Date

 5/6/2019
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date