

National Indian Health Board



[DATE]

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

Please accept the National Indian Health Board's letter of support for the **Poverty Reduction Work Group's 10-year Plan for the Future to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state**. For the past two years, PRWG has worked diligently to develop a plan that, if implemented, will meaningfully and measurably reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state. We are grateful to you for your support of poverty reduction, and look forward to bringing the plan to action.

Reducing poverty and inequality is critically important to the mission of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). NIHB was established in 1972, serving all Federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the Federal government's trust responsibility to AI/AN Tribal governments. Poverty adversely affects health and well-being, especially in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. It exacerbates the health disparities and lower health status experienced by AI/ANs.

We understand that the PRWG co-lead agencies will be conducting a series of community engagement meetings and finalizing the *10-year Plan for the Future* this summer. We look forward to supporting their efforts. In the meantime, we urge your continued support of the strategic plan and taking immediate steps to begin implementing it by:

- Directing state agencies to write action plans to fulfill the strategies outlined in the plan;
- Elevating the influence and expertise of people most affected by poverty in the implementation of the plan;
- Consult with Tribal leaders and Tribal organizations in the implementation of the plan;
- Provide sustainable funding and resources that is set aside for Tribal communities;
- Funding the PRWG's short-term priorities in the next budget cycle.

We believe these actions will lay a strong foundation for the full implementation of the plan over the next 10 years, and provide immediate, urgent relief for the 1.8 million Washingtonians currently struggling to make ends meet in communities throughout our state.

Thank you for supporting the Poverty Reduction Work Group and your passion for making Washington state a place where every child, adults, and family can thrive. If we can do anything further to support this effort, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

The National Indian Health Board