

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

RESOLUTION 2015_030504

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of the eleven federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from the state departments, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to the American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, American Indians experience an excessive burden of chronic kidney disease, largely due to having the highest prevalence of type 2 diabetes of any US demographic group in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, there are barriers to accessing education on kidney donation and transplantation for underserved populations; and,

WHEREAS, American Indians have historically demonstrated lower support for donations than the overall population; and,

WHEREAS, this disparity can be addressed through the implementation of culturally appropriate outreach programs which provide education about the importance of donation and increase level of engagement in the care process; and,

WHEREAS, Lifesource and Hennepin County Medical Center have developed a new culturally-targeted living kidney donation educational program for American Indians with Stage III or greater kidney disease who may become eligible for preemptive referral for transplant; and,

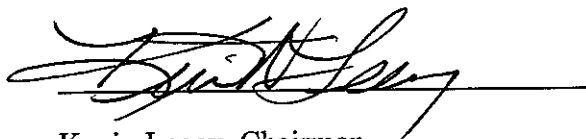
WHEREAS, this educational program, entitled "Circle of Learning," was developed in consultation with tribal advisors, and is an interpersonal approach that integrates kidney donation with American Indian's oral tradition of story-telling; and,

WHEREAS, the program is delivered by tribal outreach staff at five at participating tribal reservations (Leech Lake, Red Lake Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Mille Lacs) and three urban sites (Indian Health Service Clinic, Native American Community Clinic and Minneapolis American Indian Center); and,

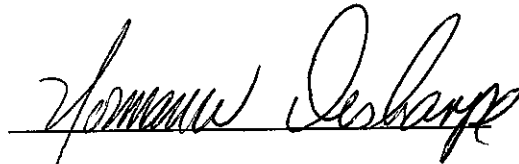
WHEREAS, Lifesource and Hennepin County Medical Center are seeking \$250,000 from the state's general fund in order to expand the program to the remaining reservations and other urban sites, and to make the outreach program financially sustainable;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Minnesota Indian Affairs Council supports a bill at the Minnesota State Legislature which appropriate funding for organ donation outreach and educational services for American Indians.

CERTIFICATION: We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 6 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent, at a Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on March 5 , 2015 at Prior Lake Minnesota.



Kevin Leecy, Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



Norman Deschampe, Secretary / Treasurer
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council