

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION

- TITLE: ENDORSING THE EFFORTS OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY - ALASKA ADVISORY BOARD IN ESTABLISHING AN ALASKA NATIVE CANCER FUND
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 209 federally recognized tribes, 185 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and 9 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: American Indians and Alaska Natives have the lowest health status of the U.S. population, and with these mounting health disparities, American Indians and Alaska Natives face an alarming cancer burden; and
- WHEREAS: Nationally, compared to their white counterparts, the Native population has a higher incidence rate for lung, colorectal, and kidney cancers, and cancers associated with infectious agents (liver, stomach, cervix); and
- WHEREAS: The disparities are more pronounced in Alaska for American Indians and Alaska Natives, where compared to Whites the incidence rates are 1.5 times higher for lung cancer, 2.5 times higher for colorectal cancer, and more than 4 times higher for stomach cancer; and
- WHEREAS: Cancer is generally diagnosed at a later stage in Alaska Natives than in Whites, with some of the biggest gaps occurring for breast and stomach cancers, which results in lower survival rates; and
- WHEREAS: It would be difficult to find one Alaska Native who has not been touched by cancer in some way, either directly or through a loved one; and
- WHEREAS: There is a significant opportunity to reverse these deplorable cancer trends in Alaska, but it will require a focused commitment to supporting incremental cancer efforts with an emphasis on health equity; and
- WHEREAS: Adequate funding is a cornerstone for sustained advancement to fight cancer in Alaska Natives, and philanthropic partners are even more crucial; and

WHEREAS: The American Cancer Society's Alaska Advisory Board is pursuing a campaign to establish an Alaska Native Cancer Fund Endowment to increase the support for Alaska Native focused cancer studies, and to further the opportunity for Alaska Natives to secure early screening and receive life saving care if diagnosed; and

WHEREAS: With the support of the American Cancer Society and the corporations, organizations, Tribes, and individuals across Alaska that support improved health conditions for Alaska Natives, we can work together to create a transformational impact on the Alaska Native population by reducing cancer mortality, minimizing cancer disparities, and enabling improved health and well-being; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2024 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby supports and endorses the efforts of the American Cancer Society Alaska Advisory Board in establishing an Alaska Native Cancer Fund to support Alaska Native cancer research and to provide services for cancer screening and care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages our Membership, partners, and allies across the state to put their philanthropic resources behind this important Alaska Native Cancer Fund to reduce Alaska Native cancer mortality, minimize cancer disparities, and enable improved health and well-being.