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For Immediate Release

Alaska Native Tribal Leaders Speak Out

Anchorage, ALASKA--Tribal delegates passed a resolution to support Alaska smokefree workplaces at this October's Annual Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention. The resolution sends a clear message that it is essential to protect the health and well being of Alaska Native people and others from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

"Tobacco use by Alaska Native adults and youth is higher than that of non-Natives, bringing death and disease that has historically been uncommon for Alaska Natives. Prevalence is at epidemic proportions with more than 40 percent of the Alaska Native adult population smoking," said Andrea Thomas, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) tobacco manager and CDC Tribal Support Center grantee.

Lincoln Bean Sr., Delegate from the Organized Village of Kake, who is also Chairman of the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB), brought forth the resolution with tremendous support from SEARHC Tobacco Program staff. Before the resolution was introduced at AFN, it had recently passed at the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) and Alaska Native Brotherhood's (ANB) Annual Grand Camp. ANS and ANB is the eldest Indigenous Persons Civil Rights Organization in the entire United States.

"This resolution solidifies tribal support for smokefree workplaces. Smokefree policies protect workers, help people quit and promote healthy lifestyles," said Bean.

For examples of the draft resolution and the Alaska Native flyer produced by SEARHC for educating tribal leaders please go to

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