

the prevalence of essential work jobs that do not allow for social distancing; intense housing density and lack of quarantine facilities; and long-standing income and wealth gaps—all negatively impact health status. The Washington Post reports, “Hispanics and Native Americans have made up an increasing proportion of Covid-19 deaths. The disease now accounts for nearly 20 percent of all deaths among those groups.” These deaths are tragic losses to our communities;

WHEREAS, when Congress enacted and the President signed into law the CARES Act on March 27, 2020, the State-Local-Tribal Government Coronavirus Relief Fund included \$8 Billion for Tribal Governments to address necessary expenses related to COVID-19 and directed that such funds be expended by December 30, 2020;

WHEREAS, Tribal Governments responded to the CARES Act by developing plans to expend the Coronavirus Relief Funds and these initial funds have largely been allocated and expended;

WHEREAS, Tribal Governments are devastated. Tribes lack the tax base available to our sister governments. Our Tribal Government Revenues fund essential services, including schools, health care, police and fire, child and elder care, water, sewer and sanitation services—and lacking a tax base, those services are nearly entirely funded with income from Tribal Businesses. The loss of these Tribal Government Revenues is a catastrophic loss for the health and well-being of our tribal communities;

WHEREAS, Nationwide, Indian gaming is among the top 12 employers, creating 780,000 jobs and generating \$35 Billion in Tribal Government Revenue in 2019. Tribal hospitality, spas, golf courses, gift shops, retail and convenience store enterprises generate an additional \$6 Billion in revenue. Native Agriculture and Natural Resources create hundreds of thousands of Native jobs and generate \$7 Billion in sales, according to the Interior Department. The Nationwide Economic Impact of Indian gaming (direct and indirect) is \$105 Billion, generating \$36 Billion in Wages, \$15 Billion to Vendors, and \$15 Billion in Payments to Federal, State and Local Governments. Small Tribal Businesses (including SBA 8(a)) nationwide generate more than \$50 Billion annually. *Due to the Pandemic, Tribal Government revenues will be down by at least \$40 Billion—decimating the revenue Tribal Governments depend on to provide services to Tribal citizens;*

WHEREAS, to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19 and to alleviate economic suffering and unemployment, Congress should enact further Coronavirus Relief, including State-Local-and-Tribal Government CRF Relief, individual relief, testing, contact tracing, and vaccine funding; Health Care support; Education Support; Paycheck Protection Program support for small business with 500 employees or less; among other things; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Gaming Association calls upon the Congress of the United States to enact the CARES Act 4 legislation to provide additional State-Local-Tribal Coronavirus Relief Funding and supports the \$9.5 Billion allocated by the House of Representatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tribal Government Coronavirus Relief Funds should be: