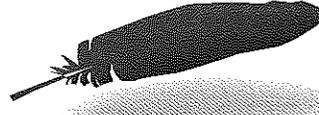


National Indian Health Board



November 6, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515-0508

Dear Representative Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Indian Health Board and, we are writing to ask for your support of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Specifically, we ask that you support the inclusion of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) as part of H.R. 3962. This version of the IHCIA in H.R. 3962 is *exactly* the same as the IHCIA reauthorization in H.R. 2708, which has broad support throughout Indian Country.

The IHCIA is the baseline for all health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Since 1992, when the IHCIA was last overhauled, the American health care system has been revolutionized, but the Indian health care system has not been. Including IHCIA in H.R. 3962 will modernize the Indian health care system at the same time as Congress is reforming health care for all Americans. It also honors the trust responsibility incumbent upon the United States to provide health care to tribes and its tribal members.

Indian Country has been fighting for 10 years to get IHCIA reauthorized – and this is our only chance to pass the reauthorization of IHCIA this Congress. And it's a good chance – but, only if we have your vote for H.R. 3962.

Without controlling the spiraling costs of health care our economy will not be able to sustain the current trend of health care costs. Health care reform is essential to a strong enduring economic recovery. The continued economic recovery depends in part upon efforts to retain employment positions through control of skyrocketing health care costs to employers, families and the individual health care consumer.

Thank you for your consideration and support of H.R. 3962. If the National Indian Health Board can be of assistance, please contact NIHB's Legislative Director Jennifer Cooper at 202-507-4070 or by email at jcooper@nihb.org.

With warm regards,

Reno Keoni Franklin
Chairman
National Indian Health Board



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