



NPAIHB POLICY BRIEF

House Bill to Reauthorize IHCIA

PREPARED BY: NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

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House Resources Committee introduces bill to reauthorize Indian Health Care Improvement Act

Portland OR— the House Resources Committee introduced a bill yesterday to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) in the 110th Congress. The bill is sponsored by a bipartisan group that are led by Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Nick Rahall (D-VA), and Don Young (R-AK) and is formally titled, “Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007” (H.R. 1328) with 33 cosponsors. Northwest cosponsors include Representative Jay Inslee (D-WA), David Wu (D-OR), and Jim McDermott (D-WA). The House bill is similar to bills (S. 1057, S. 4122, and H.R. 5312) introduced in the 109th Congress and adopts much of the language from the previous bills. Major provisions of the bill are as follows:

- ❖ Title I: Indian Health, Human Resources, and Development: These provisions are designed to aid in recruitment and retention of medical professionals for Indian health programs.
- ❖ Title II: Health Services: These provisions address deficiencies in health status and provide authorization for more efficient and cost-effective methods of health care delivery.
- ❖ Title III: Facilities: Provide authority for health facilities construction, sanitation, and maintenance programs.
- ❖ Title IV: Access to Health Services: provide authority for access to Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs.
- ❖ Title V: Urban Indian Health: provides authority to establish and maintain urban Indian health programs and to make health services more accessible to urban Indians;
- ❖ Title VI: Organizational Improvements: Addresses structural improvements to establish the Indian Health Service as an agency of the Public Health Service.
- ❖ Title VII: Behavioral Health Programs: authorizes the IHS to develop mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, and domestic violence and child abuse programs.
- ❖ Title VIII: Miscellaneous: Addresses administrative issues within the IHS and sets forth reporting requirements.

A hearing on the bill has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2007 before the House Resources Committee. It is expected that the co-chairs for the National Steering Committee for reauthorization of the IHCIA—Rachel Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Tribe and Buford Rolin, Chairman, Poarch Creek Tribe—will testify before the Resources Committee. Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board chairperson, Linda Holt, Suquamish Tribal Council member, will also provide testimony on behalf of Northwest Tribes and the Board. Mark-up on H.R. 1328 is scheduled for April 25, 2007. □