

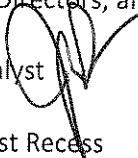
LEGISLATIVE ALERT – ACTION NEEDED!

NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

Burns-Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d' Alene Tribe
Colville Tribe
Coos, Suislaw &
Lower Umpqua Tribe
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Grand Ronde Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha Tribe
Lummi Tribe
Makah Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribe
Nez Perce Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Tribe
NW Band of Shoshoni Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe
Siletz Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Spokane Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribe
Umatilla Tribe
Upper Skagit Tribe
Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

DATE: August 7, 2009

TO: Tribal Leaders, Health Directors, and NPAIHB Delegates

FROM: Jim Roberts, Policy Analyst 

SUBJECT: Health Reform & August Recess

Congressional House members still need to hear from Indian Country about the amendment package that Rep. Nick Rahall (WV-D) has offered to the House health reform bill.¹ While House members are back in their District during this August recess, it will provide an opportunity for Tribal leaders and health directors to call on their members and let them know that you support the Rahall amendment that were offered to the House health reform bill (H.R. 3200). We have included both the Rahall and Pallone amendments for your review. The following provides a brief update on the health reform situation.

Indian Country Recommendations:

1. Exempt AI/AN from mandates and penalties
2. Grant Tribal governments exemption from employer penalties
3. AI/AN should be eligible for insurance subsidies
4. Portability of health coverage is essential
5. Include Indian health provider protections
6. Exclusion of health benefits as income

Health Reform Update:

The HELP and Finance Committees have both passed their version of health reform bills. The HELP Committee bill exempts AI/AN from the individual mandate requiring them to have health insurance and includes IHS as qualifying (credible) coverage.

We understand that the Finance Committee bill includes: the IHS as a Payor of last resort for health reform provided coverage, allows Tribes to determine eligibility for public programs by adding the I/T/U as Medicaid/CHIP Express Lane Agencies, makes permanent Part B billing authority for all items and services (due to sunset on 12/31/2009), adds AI/AN choice of I/T/U in programs offered thru Exchange and requires negotiated and prompt payment rates, and provides that IHS is not credible

¹ Rep. Frank Pallone has also introduced an amendment that includes Indian Health programs as qualified health providers, special rules for Indian enrollees and Indian health providers, Indian cost sharing exemptions, and a special rule for licensure/certification, which are comparable to Rep. Rahall's amendment package.

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coverage and that AI/ANs are NOT EXEMPT from Individual Mandate – BUT not subject to penalty.

The House bill does not contain any substantive protections that will adequately allow AI/AN people to participate in health reform changes. We need Tribal leaders and health directors to reach out to their House members for support.

How to Help:

There are two ways you can assist. (1) Schedule visits with your House member or their staff while they are back you the District during the August Recess, and; (2) Attend one of the many town hall meetings that members will be conducting in their District during the August recess. (I have included a schedule of these meetings)

The Ask and Message:

When you meet with your Congressman ask them to support the Rahall and Pallone amendments to HR 3200 by reaching out to House leadership. The Rahall amendment is the more substantive amendment and also includes similar provisions as the Pallone amendment. Indian Country has been completely disregarded in the House bill and we are recommending that Northwest Tribes take a more assertive position to request as many protections as possible for AI/AN people and the IHS system in health reform. The Rahall amendment does this.

Ask your member Congressman to reach out to House Leadership in support of the amendment. Specifically ask them to reach out and speak to:

1. Nancy Pelosi, (D, 8th-CA), Speaker of the House
2. Steny Hoyer, (D, 5th-MD), Majority Leader of the House
3. Chris Van Hollen, (D, 8th-MD), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
4. George Miller, (D, 7th- CA), Chair, Education & Labor Committee
5. Henry Waxman, (D, 30th-CA), Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee
6. Charles Rangel, (D, 15th-NY), Chair, Ways & Means Committee

They should request that the above House leadership support the Rahall amendment in order to increase opportunities for AI/AN people to participate equally in health care reform and to preserve the federal trust responsibility to provide health care to Indians and protect the vital role that the Indian health system plays in providing services to Indian people.

Likewise, please attend one of the many town hall meetings on health reform and deliver the same message above.

Please let me know if you have any questions by calling me via cell at (503) 347-7664 or by email at jroberts@npaihb.org.

Congress August Recess Schedule Town Hall Meetings on Health Care Reform

REVISED: August 7, 2009

During this August recess, House members are hosting town hall meetings on health reform in their districts. The following schedule provides a summary of scheduled town hall meetings that have been scheduled to date. If you do plan on attending a town hall meeting it is recommended that you register at: www.healthcareforamericanow.org/. If you do not see a meeting scheduled for your House member, you may check for updated meetings at the same website.

OREGON

Representative David Wu:

Date & Time: Monday, August 10 from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: McMinnville Police Station
121 SW Adams St
McMinnville, OR 97128

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 11 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Good Samaritan Hospital (Portland, OR)
1040 NW 22nd Ave
Building 2 Auditorium
Portland, OR 97210

Date/Time: Thursday, August 13 from 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Seaside Public Library (Seaside, OR)
1131 Broadway
Seaside, OR 97138

Date/Time: Friday, August 14 from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Columbia Learning Center
375 South 18th St
Saint Helens, OR 97051

Representative Kurt Schrader:

Date/Time: Thursday, August 6 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Pelican Pub and Brewery (Pacific City, OR)
33180 Cape Kiwanda Drive
Pacific City, OR 97135

Date/Time: Thursday, August 6 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: The Spouting Horn Restaurant
110 E Highway 101
Depoe Bay, OR 97341

Date/Time: Friday, August 7 from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: The Red Door Cafe (Newport, OR)
34 South Coast Hwy
Newport, OR 97365

Representative Pete DeFazio:

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 12th, 9:30 - 10:30 AM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Cottage Grove Community Center,
700 Givvs Avenue
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 12, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Cave Junction City Hall (Cave Junction, OR)
222 W Lister Street
Cave Junction, OR 97523

Date/Time: Thursday, August 13, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Chetco Activity Center (Brookings, OR)
550 Chetco Lane
Brookings, OR 97415

Date/Time: Thursday, August 13th, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Gold Beach City Hall (Gold Beach, OR)
29592 Ellensburg Ave
Gold Beach, OR 97444

Date/Time: Thursday, August 13 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Port Orford City Hall (Port Orford, OR)
555 W 20th St
Port Orford, OR 97465

Date/Time: Thursday, August 13th, 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: North Bend City Hall (North Bend, OR)
835 California Street
North Bend, OR 97459

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 18 from 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Junction City Hall (Junction City, OR)
680 Greenwood
Junction City, OR 97448

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 18 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Springfield City Hall (Springfield, OR)
225 5th St
Springfield, OR 97477

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 19th, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Oakland City Hall (Oakland, OR)
637 NE Locust St
Oakland, OR 97462

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 19th, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Seven Feathers Convention Center
(Canyonville, OR)
146 Chief Miwaleta Lane, Room A
Canyonville, OR 97417

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 19th, 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM
Host: Betsy Dillner
Location: Douglas County Library (Roseburg, OR)
1409 NW Diamond Lake Blvd
Roseburg, OR 97470

WASHINGTON

Representative Rick Larsen (WA-R)

Date/Time: Saturday, August 8 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Host: Lynne Nguyen
Location: Skagit County PUD (Mount Vernon, WA)
1415 Freeway Dr.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 12, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Host: Lynne Nguyen
Location: Everett Station (Everett, WA)
3201 Smith Ave.
Everett, WA 98201

Representative Adam Smith (WA-D)

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 25th, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Host: Jason Rosenbaum
Location: Lakewood City Hall (Lakewood, WA)
Lakewood, WA 98499

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 25th, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Host: Lynne Nguyen
Location: Lakewood City Council Chambers
6000 Main Street
Lakewood, WA 98499