



JULY 29 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to provide an update to my July 18 letter regarding the draft Circular that addresses the purchase of health care coverage, which is commonly referred to as Tribal Premium Sponsorship. During the July 21 Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee meeting, Tribal Leaders asked the Indian Health Service (IHS) to extend the comment period for Tribal Premium Sponsorship and include in-person consultation sessions. In response to this request, the IHS will extend the Tribal comment period to October 31 and hold two in-person consultation sessions.

The first consultation session will be held at the National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, on September 19, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

The second consultation session will be held at the National Congress of American Indians 73rd Annual Convention and Marketplace in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 9, 2016, from 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Written comments can be e-mailed to consultation@ihs.gov by COB October 31.

Thank you for your support and partnership. I look forward to receiving your input on the draft Circular for Tribal Premium Sponsorship and have enclosed a copy for your review.

For additional information, contact Ms. Terri Schmidt, Acting Director, Office of Resource Access and Partnerships. She can be reached by telephone at (301) 443-3216 or by e-mail at terri.schmidt@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/

Mary Smith
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure