

National Indian Health Board

Legislative Alert

July 28, 2009



Speak up for INDIAN COUNTRY on
National Health Care Reform

UPDATE: RAHALL AMENDMENT to H.R. 3200 *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*

UPDATE: Congress still needs to hear from Indian Country about the Indian Health amendment package also known as the Rahall Amendment. Please call your Congressman *ASAP* to let them know that Indian Country supports the Rahall amendment and that these provisions are essential to preserving Indian Country's health care of choice.

BACKGROUND: *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009* (H.R. 3200) would make sweeping changes to the way that health care is delivered and accessed in America. Unfortunately, the bill lacks provisions to the necessary protections to preserve the Federal trust responsibility to provide health care to Indians and to strengthen the unique Indian health system.

Congressman Rahall is introducing an Indian health amendments package to H.R. 3200 to ensure that the necessary protections are in place for the Indian health care system.

GOAL: Getting the Indian Country provisions included in HR 3200.

ACTION NEEDED:

1. Call your Congressman **ASAP** and ask him or her to support the Rahall amendment to HR 3200. To find who your representative is, go to <http://www.house.gov/> and enter your zip code into the *Find Your Representative* box located on the top left side of the website.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

If you are unable to reach the members themselves, please ask for the person at the highest level in the office.

2. Ask your Congressman to reach out to House Leadership in support of the amendment.

Specifically ask them to speak to:

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

THE MESSAGE:

- The Indian health care system is OUR health care of choice and MUST BE preserved.
- The federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes and the Indian health system often requires specific language to prevent unintended adverse consequences to our unique health care delivery system.
- Indian Country supports the Rahall amendments that are necessary to uphold the federal trust responsibility and to protect the Indian health care system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit NIHB's website, www.nihb.org, for description and language of the Rahall amendments and letters of support. If you have any questions, please contact NIHB's Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper at (202) 680-4455.