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**Debt Reduction “Super Committee”
Members Named**

This week, the four top leaders in Congress appointed three Members each to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction or the “Super Committee. The Committee, established by *The Budget Control Act of 2011*, is tasked with finding additional savings of between \$1.2 and \$1.5 trillion in the federal budget over the next decade. These savings are likely to come from cuts to federal spending, but could also include entitlement and/or tax reform. All areas of federal spending are up for consideration. The Super Committee is comprised of the following Members:

House Republicans appointed by Speaker
Boehner:

Rep. Jeb Hensarling (TX), Co-Chair

Rep. Dave Camp (MI)
Rep. Fred Upton (MI)

House Democrats appointed by Minority
Leader Pelosi:

Rep. James Clyburn (SC)
Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA)
Rep. Chris Van Hollen (MD)

Senate Democrats appointed by Majority
Leader Reid:

Sen. Patty Murray (WA), Co-Chair
Sen. Max Baucus (MT)
Sen. John Kerry (MA)

Senate Republicans appointed by Minority
Leader McConnell:

Sen. Jon Kyl (AZ)
Sen. Rob Portman (OH)
Sen. Pat Toomey (PA)

By law, the Committee’s work is subject to strict deadlines, all before the end of 2011:

September 16th: Super Committee must have its first meeting

October 14th: Deadline for other Congressional Committees to submit recommendations

November 23rd: Deadline for Super Committee to report its recommendations

December 9th: Super Committee recommendations must pass both Chambers of Congress at the Committee level



December 23rd: Super Committee recommendations must pass the full House and Senate

To see a complete timetable, click [here](#).

Should the Super Committee not succeed in creating legislation containing the requisite amount of deficit reduction, \$1.2 trillion in cuts to discretionary and mandatory spending are triggered on January 2, 2013. These cuts would be 50% domestic and 50% defense spending, with certain safety net programs being spared from any cuts (Social Security, Medicaid, etc.). Medicare would see a 2% cut in provider reimbursements, but no cuts to benefits.

NIHB has sent letters to each Super Committee Member reminding them of the nation's trust responsibility for the delivery of health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and urging them to leave cuts to the Indian Health Service off of the table. We will continue to monitor the Super Committee's progress and will provide updates as they develop.

HEALTH REFORM UPDATES

HHS, Treasury Release Proposed Rules on Medicaid Expansion and Premium Tax Credits Under Exchanges

This week, the Department of Health and Human Services and Treasury released three new proposed rules concerning State Insurance Exchanges, one-stop marketplaces where consumers can choose an affordable private health insurance plan suited to their needs.

The three proposed rules released by HHS and Treasury focus on the following:

- **Health Insurance Premium Tax Credit:** Individuals and families will receive premium tax credits to help defray insurance costs, increasing

access to health coverage for millions of middle class American families.

- **Medicaid Eligibility:** Coordinating the Exchange with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility will make enrollment seamless for qualified Americans and reduce the administrative burden on states.
- **Easy, Simple Access to Coverage for Consumers and Small Businesses:** New rules will make it easy for consumers to enroll in high-quality health plans and get help paying for health coverage through premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions. Small employers participating in the Small Business Health Options Program will be able to offer their employees a choice of health plans and cut their costs with new tax credits.

In the weeks ahead, the Administration will conduct an aggressive outreach campaign and ask for public comment on the three proposed rules from employers, consumers, state leaders, health care providers and insurers, and the American people. In addition to accepting written public comments for the next 75 days, the departments will hold forums. These forums will help ensure more Americans have the opportunity to share their views regarding the establishment of Affordable Insurance Exchanges. Forums will be held in:

- Atlanta, GA
- Chicago, IL
- Denver, CO
- New York, NY
- Portland, OR
- Sacramento, CA

For more information about the proposed rules, visit:

- Overview: www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/exchanges08122011a.html;



- Easy, Simple Access to Coverage for Consumers and Small Businesses: www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/exchanges08122011b.html
- Health Insurance Premium Tax Credit: www.treasury.gov/press-center/Documents/36BFactSheet.PDF
- Medicaid Eligibility: www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/exchanges08122011c.html

HHS Initiates Tribal Consultation on Exchanges Proposed Rulemaking

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invites Tribes to participate in an upcoming Tribal consultation on the Affordable Insurance Exchanges Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as well as other provisions in the Affordable Care Act. HHS is working hard to implement policies that will improve the quality and accessibility of health services for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. The consultation sessions will provide a general overview of the Affordable Care Act and the specific provision mentioned above, including an educational session on each topic, followed by a consultation for that topic. Consultation sessions will be held in three cities so that you may select the most convenient consultation to attend. The dates and locations are listed below:

AUGUST 22, 2011

Seattle, Washington

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Red Lion Hotel Avenue

1415 Fifth Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Denver, Colorado

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Embassy Suites: Downtown 1420 Stout St.

Denver, CO 80202

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2011

Washington, DC

HHH Building: Great Hall
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

HHS will provide agendas for these consultations, as well as a letter from Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in the near future.

11th Circuit Rules against the Individual Mandate but upholds rest of the ACA

In a 300-plus page [opinion](#) released on August 12th, the Eleventh Circuit Court struck down, as beyond Congress's power, the Affordable Care Act's requirement that virtually every American obtain health insurance coverage by 2014. The Eleventh Circuit, however, did not strike down the entire law, as a federal judge in Florida had done earlier, because the Circuit Court found that the insurance mandate could be removed without nullifying the remainder of the Affordable Care Act. This means that the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Reauthorization and other Indian specific provisions in the ACA have not been struck down.

This ruling was the second ruling from a Federal Appeals Court on the constitutionality of the insurance mandate. The Sixth Circuit has already ruled in *Thomas More Law Center, et al., v. Obama, et al.*, that the individual requirement is constitutional. The plaintiff filed an appeal July 27 with the Supreme Court asking it to overturn the 6th Circuit decision.

OPM Still Accepting Nominations for FEHB/FEGLI Tribal Workgroup

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has released a "Dear Tribal Leader" letter requesting nominations from each of the 12 Indian Health Service (IHS) Areas to a Tribal/Federal Technical Workgroup to assist



in the implementation of a provision of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act creating Tribal employer access to the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program and Federal Employee Group Life Insurance (FEGLI).

Workgroup representatives should have sufficient knowledge about existing Tribal health care enrollment and payroll systems to provide input as to the technical capabilities of their Tribe, as well as others in their region. Representatives need not be elected or appointed Tribal officials, but should be designated or nominated by an elected Tribal official. OPM expects to hold at least two Workgroup meetings in Washington, DC, and representatives will be able to join in person or via teleconference.

Those wishing to nominate representatives are encouraged to submit a nomination letter, including a statement of interest outlining the relevant experience and qualifications held by the nominee, by **August 19, 2011** via email to: tribalprograms@opm.gov. More information about these programs can be found on OPM's website: www.opm.gov/TribalPrograms

NIHB UPDATES

NIHB Announces 28th Annual Consumer Conference

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) invites tribal leaders, health administrators, policy makers, and area health boards to the 28th Annual Consumer Conference (ACC) in Anchorage, Alaska at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center from September 26 to 29, 2011. The theme for this year's conference, *Health, Hope, and Heroes: Using the Foundations of Tribal Values and Knowledge to Advance Native Health!*, will provide a chance for attendees to discuss successes, challenges, opportunities, and the future of health care for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Meetings before and after the ACC will include tribal consultations conducted by federal agencies such as the Health Resources and Services Administration, health information technology and electronic medical record marketplace, and culture night. During the conference, NIHB plans to offer plenary and workshop sessions on topics including Medicare/Medicaid and tribal health, youth health, health care reform implementation, behavioral health, health information technology and electronic medical records, and public health issues. In addition there are many opportunities for attendees and tribes to be involved in the conference. Click the links below to learn more about those opportunities.

[2011 ACC Call for Proposals](#)

Deadline: August 22nd

[2011 ACC Sponsorship Packet](#)

[2011 Awards Nomination Form](#)

Deadline: August 19th

[2011 Exhibitor Application](#)

Deadline: August 22nd

You can register and learn more about the conference details [here](#). If you register before September 9, 2011 for the discounted rate of \$400, after September 9, 2011, registration will be \$475.

For more details, visit the [ACC's website](#) or contact NIHB Deputy Director, [Evangelyn "Angel" Dotomain](#).



NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON**CONGRESS IS OUT OF SESSION****STATE INSURANCE EXCHANGE NPRM
WEBINARS**

On July 11, 2011, the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), a component of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), published two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs) and the Exchange and Premium Stabilization NPRMs. CCIIO will host three webinar sessions for Indian Country over the next month to provide an overview of the Exchange NPRM and the Indian provisions of the proposed rule. Below is a schedule of the webinars:

August 15, 2011

Time: 2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. EDT
Conference Line: 877-267-1577
Passcode: 0714

Click [here](#) to register for this webinar and [here](#) to login with your e-mail and password on Monday, August 15, 2011 at 2:00p.m. EDT.

August 17, 2011

Time: 3:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. EDT
Conference Line: 877-267-1577
Passcode: 1064

Click [here](#) to register for this webinar and [here](#) to login with your e-mail and password on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 3:00p.m. EDT.

August 19, 2011

Time: 2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. EDT
Conference Line: 877-267-1577
Passcode: 4412

Click [here](#) to register for this webinar and [here](#) to login with your e-mail and password on Friday, August 19, 2011 at 2:00p.m. EDT.

Sign Up for Washington Report, at:

http://www.nihb.org/legislative/washington_report.php

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