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## **Congress Passes FMAP Bill**

After weeks of deliberation, the House and Senate were able to pass an extension of the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). H.R. 1586 included more than \$16 billion in FMAP assistance to states for an additional six months, in addition to funding for education. The House and Senate had spent several weeks debating how to pass such a bill, specifically whether to fully offset the cost of the bill, and ultimately passed a scaled down version that was fully paid for.

The bill extends the increased FMAP that was originally passed as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Under ARRA, FMAP increased by a minimum of 6.2 percent. H.R. 1586 extends the additional federal assistance for states through June 2011, but at a reduced rate of 3.2 percent from January to March 2011 and 1.2 percent from April to June 2011.

Originally, the House had adjourned for its August recess, while the Senate stayed in session for an additional week.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA) called the House back from recess to vote on the Senate passed bill. President Obama quickly signed the bill into law.

## **Congress in Recess Until Mid-September**

The House and Senate are adjourned through mid-September. Members will be spending time in home states and districts. This is a good time for American Indians and Alaska Natives to visit members of Congress at town hall meetings, public events, etc.

Congress will have approximately a month left on its calendar before its targeted adjournment date. During this time frame, the National Indian Health Board would like two pieces of legislation to be passed: an extension of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and appropriations for the Indian Health Service for Fiscal Year 2011. The House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee provided \$4.4 billion for the Indian Health Service, which represents an 8.7 percent increase over the previous years.



For more information about the IHS budget and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) visit [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)

### **Senator Dorgan Receives Award for Diabetes Work**

Senator Byron Dorgan (ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, received an award last week for his leadership on diabetes prevention and treatment incentives such as the Special Diabetes Program (SDP). The program provides research for Type-1 diabetes and funding for prevention and management of Type-2 diabetes for American Indians and Alaska Natives.



Senator Dorgan listens to families tell their stories about diabetes.

The National Indian Health Board, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Diabetes Association presented Senator Dorgan with a Legacy Award for his work to reauthorize the SDP. The event took place in Bismarck, ND.

Senator Dorgan announced during that the meeting the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded

\$1856,133 in federal funding to help prevent and treat diabetes in North Dakota reservations.

Senator Dorgan's bill, S.3058, would reauthorize the SDP and currently has 60 cosponsors in the Senate.

### **Annual Consumer Conference Fast Approaching**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Conference hosted by the National Indian Health Board is quickly approaching. The event will take place September 20-23 in Sioux Falls, SD.

The theme of this year's conference is "Tribal-State Relations and American Indian/Alaska Native Health Care." In addition to focusing on Tribal-State relations, the conference will also address the Affordable Care Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, issues related to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and a Tribal town-hall event.

Invitees include the Director of the Indian Health Service, the Director of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Director for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, First Lady Mrs. Obama, Governors, Secretary Sebelius and more.

For additional information about the conference, visit: [http://www.nihb.org/communications/conferences\\_events.php](http://www.nihb.org/communications/conferences_events.php), to register for the conference visit: <https://secure.events-registration.com/nihbacc2010/>.

The National Indian Health Board is accepting calls for proposals as well as



for vendors. For information, please visit [http://www.nihb.org/communications/conferences\\_events.php](http://www.nihb.org/communications/conferences_events.php) for additional information. **The deadline to submit proposals is August 23, 2010.**

For questions regarding the conference, please contact Krystin Poitra at [kpoitra\[at\]nihb.org](mailto:kpoitra[at]nihb.org).



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

National Indian  
Health Board

Presents   
The 27th Annual Consumer Conference

**Tribal-State Relations and  
American Indian/Alaska Native  
Health Care**

Hosted by the Tribes of the Aberdeen Area  
Through Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board

**September  
20-24, 2010**

Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

For more information visit [www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)

