



September 8, 2009

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Schedules Legislative Hearing on Indian Youth Suicide Prevention Bill.

In addition to a business meeting, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is scheduled to hold a legislative hearing on S. 1635 - 7th *Generation Promise: Indian Youth Suicide Prevention Act of 2009* **this Thursday, September 10, 2009**, at 2:15 pm in the Senate Dirksen Office Building. The bill is sponsored by Senator Dorgan.

The purpose of the bill is 1) to establish a demonstration project for use of telemental health services in suicide prevention and treatment of Indian youth, 2) to enhance the provision of mental health care services to Indian youth through existing grants, and 3) to encourage the use of predoctoral psychology and psychiatry interns.

Addressing suicide is a top health priority for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death among American Indians/Alaska Natives ages 15-34 years and the suicide rates among American Indians/Alaska Natives for this age group (19.7 per 100,000) are 1.8 times higher than the national average (11.1 per 100,000) for that age group.¹

This hearing is scheduled during National Suicide Prevention Week (September 6-12th) <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. For more information on current tribal suicide prevention programs, please visit the IHS Suicide Prevention website <http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/nspn/>

QUESTIONS: Please contact NIHB's Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper at (202) 507-4076.

¹*Suicide: Facts at a Glance*. Summer 2009. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/index.html>. Last accessed on September 8, 2009.