



October 19, 2009

UPDATE ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

SENATE

On Thursday, October 15, 2009, Senator Dorgan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, with 15 original cosponsors, introduced a bill to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), S. 1790, in the Senate. This bill calls for permanent authorization of the IHCIA, amends certain provisions in current law and proposes new provisions that aim at improving the access to health care available to American Indians/Alaska Natives.

When introducing the bill, Senator Dorgan stated, “that the need for the need for health care is not new for Indian Country. Nowadays, the need for national health care reform is front page news, but our Native Americans have long been in need of health care reforms. Therefore, I intend to offer this Native American health bill as an amendment to any national health care reform bill considered on the Senate floor.”

HOUSE

The House Energy and Commerce’s Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the H.R. 2708 – *the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2009* **on Tuesday, October 20, 2009**, at 2:00 pm in 2226 Rayburn House Office Building. The chair of the Health Subcommittee is Rep. Frank Pallone (NJ-6) who sponsored H.R. 2708. Witnesses invited to testify include:

- *Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Indian Health Service*
- *Jefferson Keel, Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and President-elect of the National Congress of American Indians*
- *Rachel Joseph, Co-Chair of the National Tribal Steering Committee for the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and on behalf of the National Indian Health Board*
- *Andrew Joseph, Chairman, Human Services Committee, Direct Services Tribe Advisory Committee*
- *Patrick Rock, M.D., Executive Director of the Indian Health Board of Minneapolis and the President-Elect of National Council Urban Indian Health*

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