

INDIAN COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INDIAN PROVISIONS IN HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS

This document sets out Indian Country's recommendations regarding the Indian-specific provisions of the House health care reform bill (H.R. 3962) and Senate health care reform bill (H.R. 3590) for inclusion in the final legislation. Both measures demonstrate that Congressional policymakers have been mindful of their responsibilities to include specific language to assure that the unique Indian health system is not adversely affected by – and has full rights of participation in – health care reform programs. Both bills would also finally reauthorize and up-date the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA), thereby bringing to fruition a decade-long effort of Indian tribes.

- **CHART: Recommendations regarding Indian-Specific Provisions in H.R. 3962 and H.R. 3590 other than the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Components.**

This chart identifies Indian Country's positions on the provisions of the two bills which specifically address participation by individual Indians and the Indian health care delivery system in health care reform. To the extent the bills offer different approaches for a common objective, the preferred approach is identified.

- **CHART: Recommendations regarding Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) Components of H.R. 3962 and H.R. 3590.**

Indian Country is grateful that both the House and Senate measures have praiseworthy IHCA components and include many of the same high priority provisions. Since the measures are not identical, however, Indian Country offers recommendations for reconciliation.

Division D of H.R. 3962 revises and restates the entire IHCA and makes that law permanent. The Senate bill, on the other hand, incorporates S. 1790, a bill favorably reported by the Committee on Indian Affairs, which makes significant amendments to the IHCA (including a permanent authorization) but does not revise the entire law. H.R. 3590 also amends S. 1790, as reported.

Because the House bill is the more comprehensive measure, to simplify the reconciliation process, **Indian Country recommends that the provisions in H.R. 3962, Division D, be selected, except as indicated on the attached chart which identifies the provisions of S. 1790 that are preferred.** We suggest using the House bill's IHCA section numbers, but the House text should be replaced with the Senate text where the latter language is preferred. New Senate provisions which do not have a House counterpart should be numbered appropriately for the IHCA title in which they are recommended for insertion.

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