Health Care Reform Fact Sheet

Top Issues from Indian Country

Tribes have been waiting for more than ten years to realize the enactment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Reauthorization (IHCIA). Now that it is enacted into law, Tribes are eager for all provisions to be implemented as soon as possible. As implementation progresses, there are some issues that have been identified by Tribes as the top priorities for action.

The National Indian Health Board is committed to ensuring its work is guided by the Tribes; to that end, a survey was created that would inform the work of the organization. In August 2010, the National Indian Health Board conducted a survey to learn from Tribes directly what their top priorities were. The survey was sent out through the Board of Directors, Area health boards, Tribal advisory groups, and other outlets.

The following are the results of the survey:

1. Access to Federal Health Benefits
2. Medicaid
3. Enrollment/Access
4. Employer Responsibilities and Opportunities
5. Medicare
6. Insurance Premiums
7. Consultation/Conferring

The National Indian Health Board is using these priorities as the basis for its implementation efforts. We will continue to update and provide information on these subjects in the future, via our Indian Health Reform Resource Center website, www.nihb.org/indianhealthreform.

For more information, or questions, contact NIHB Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper, at jcooper@nihb.org.