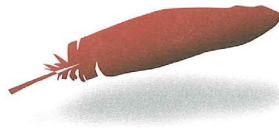


# National Indian Health Board



June 15, 2023

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

**Re: NIHB Supports the CMS TTAG Regulatory/Administrative and Legislative Priorities**

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

On behalf of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB),<sup>1</sup> I write to express NIHB's support for the CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) policy priorities that were submitted to your office in March 2023. As an advisory body to CMS, the TTAG provides expertise on policies, guidelines, and programmatic issues affecting the delivery of health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) served by Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, or any other health care program funded by CMS. NIHB holds a voting seat on the TTAG and elected to formally adopt and submit these priorities to CMS. The TTAG priorities provide a clear, explicit roadmap for CMS to address health equity in the Indian health system.

The regulatory/administrative priorities propose specific steps CMS can take – on its own authority – to expand the Medicaid services available to AI/ANs, empower Tribal programs to design and tailor Medicare and Medicaid services to their unique needs and cultures, and provide more uniform and equitable Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement to Tribal programs.

The legislative priorities propose changes that are beyond CMS's current authority and would require changes to federal statutes. While CMS generally cannot advocate directly for legislative changes, it can recommend these changes in its FY 2025 Budget Request to Congress. Indeed, NIHB submitted these priorities as part of our written testimony as part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Annual Tribal Budget Consultation which was conducted on April 18, 2023. Additionally, CMS can support this effort by providing Congress with thorough and timely technical assistance on any proposed legislation related to the TTAG priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> Established in 1972, the National Indian Health Board is an inter-Tribal organization that advocates on behalf of Tribal governments for the provision of quality health care to all American Indians and Alaska Natives. NIHB is governed by a board of directors consisting of a representative from each of the twelve Indian Health Service Areas. Whether Tribes operate their entire health care program through contracts or compacts with IHS under Public Law 93-638, *the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA)* or continue to rely on IHS for delivery of some, or even most, of their health care, NIHB is their advocate.



NIHB looks forward to the continued partnership with CMS and the TTAG in developing policies and programs that work for and with the Indian health system in accordance with the nation's trust responsibility to provide for the health of Tribal nations. We appreciate your consideration of the TTAG priorities and look forward to engaging with the agency further.

Yours in Health,

Stacy A. Bohlen, Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Indian Health Board

Cc:

Secretary Xavier Becerra

Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm

IHS Director Roselyn Tso

