



May 12, 2025

The Honorable Thomas Engels  
Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Administrator Engels,

On behalf of the National Indian Health Board and the 574+ federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribal Nations we represent, we write to thank you for your decision to pause the Uniform Data System Plus (UDS+) reporting requirements. When you announced the pause, you specifically cited Tribal advocacy in informing the Administration's decision. This thoughtful action reflects a deep respect for Tribal sovereignty and the unique challenges that Tribal health systems face. It provides much-needed flexibility as we continue to address the complex health needs of our communities, particularly in the wake of ongoing public health demands and resource limitations.

As you know, 37 Tribally operated Federally Qualified Health Centers and two look-alikes participate in the UDS+ reporting process. The UDS+ requirements represented a serious burden to Tribal grantees needing to report further data that the agency already receives as part of a de-identified, aggregated data set. The additional reporting would have required more full-time staff to support the new requirements, which were not supported by the funding provided under the Section 330 program. Tribes further expressed concerns about the ability to re-identify individuals based on the individual-level information required under the UDS+ reporting set. Our communities are very small, and Tribes exercise caution to protect our citizens' privacy.

Again, we thank you for your quick action to pause the implementation of UDS+. We appreciate your willingness to listen to Tribal voices and your commitment to Tribal Nations and the government-to-government relationship. We look forward to continuing to partner with you and future collaborations on the UDS+ and other HRSA programs serving Tribal Nations.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chief William Smith, *Valdez Native Tribe*  
Chairman  
The National Indian Health Board

CC: Dr. Sharyl Trail, PsyD, Tribal Affairs Director, Health Resources and Services Administration