

Health Insurance Reform and Indian Country

TALKING POINTS

- **Health Care will be Accessible to Everyone.**
American Indians and Alaska Natives are roughly twice as likely to be uninsured as the rest of the population. By providing health insurance choices to all Americans and providing premium assistance to make it affordable, health insurance reform will significantly reduce disparities in accessing high-quality health care.
- **Fully Funded Expansion of Medicaid Coverage.**
Health insurance reform will provide a major expansion of Medicaid coverage for millions of low-income working families who currently fall through the cracks. This expansion will help ensure that more American Indian and Alaska Native elders, children, and Indian people with disabilities receive high quality, comprehensive health care.
- **Free Preventative Services.**
American Indians and Alaska Natives are often less likely to receive preventative care. Health insurance reform offers free prevention to all insured people and invests in public health to create a system that prevents illness and disease instead of just treating it when it's too late and costs more.
- **No Discrimination for Pre-Existing Conditions.**
Health insurance reform will eliminate discrimination in obtaining health insurance by preventing any insurance company from denying coverage based on a person's medical history, including genetic discrimination, which can disproportionately hurt American Indian and Alaska Native populations.
- **Increased Data Collection.**
Health insurance reform will require health care programs to report on race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status in order to better understand health disparities, and devote funding to addressing these issues. The increased data that will be made available to tribes and tribal health facilities will assist in making smarter and more cost-effective health care choices for Indian patients.