

Protect and Strengthen the Indian Health Care Delivery System

TALKING POINTS

- **Protect and Strengthen Indian Health Care.**
Health care reform has the potential to make changes that will significantly influence the Indian health care delivery system and we must make sure it is both protected from harm and strengthened.
- **Indian People must be Exempt from Individual Penalties.**
Any health care reform legislation must respect the fact that Indian people have already paid for their health care by ceding millions of acres of land. We should not be held to any individual financial penalty for failing to acquire or purchase health insurance.
- **Indian People must be Eligible for Insurance Subsidies.**
Health insurance reform legislation will include significant subsidies to help Americans purchase health coverage. Indian people must also be eligible for insurance subsidies so that we can participate in whatever national health care plan is provided. And our tribes must be allowed to pay for insurance premiums and any cost-sharing or co-pay requirements on their citizen's behalf.
- **Provider Protections Needed.**
Our Indian health care providers, who form a crucial system of care in some of the most remote communities in the country, must be provided protection and the right to participate in health care reform legislation to assure that Indian health care providers receive payment when they provide services to patients enrolled in an Exchange plan.
- **Indian Health Care Improvement Act.**
In this era of health insurance reform, Indian Country needs assurance from Congress that the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) will continue to direct how health care will be delivered to Indian people. By including key provisions of the IHCA and making this law permanent in the health insurance reform bill, Congress would demonstrate that it is honoring its trust responsibility to tribes regarding health care.