

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congress Back in Session

September 1, 2017

On Tuesday, September 5, 2017, Congress will be back in session to consider many bills that can have an impact on IHS, Tribal 638, and the Urban Indian Health Program (I/T/U) system of care. The following table gives an overview of how some of these bills can impact the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund, and the Community Health Center Funding Cliff.

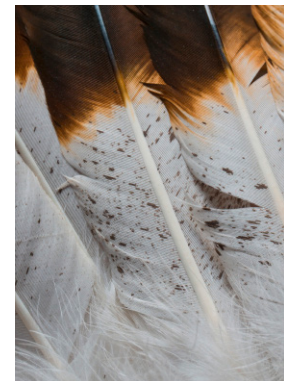
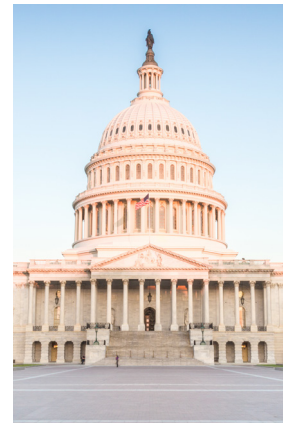


Seattle Indian Health Board
For the Love of Native People



Urban Indian Health Institute
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board

Program	Bill	Legislative Process	Impact to the I/T/U
Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)	S. 747 in the Senate and H.R. 2545 in the house reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians	S. 747 has been sent to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. H.R. 2545 has been sent to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.	SDPI serves 782,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) each year by funding over 300 diabetes treatment and prevention programs. ¹
Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (SMAIF)	H.R. 3358, which appropriates funds for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for FY 2018, would eliminate the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund.	H.R. 3358 is one of 12 annual discretionary appropriations bills. These bills must be approved by the House and then sent to the Senate. Representatives Waters and Lee have filed amendments that would provide \$53.9 million for SMAIF.	The I/T/U system does not receive funds from the larger Minority AIDS Initiative, leaving SMAIF as their primary federal funding source. In FY 2017, \$3.6 million from SMAIF was distributed to the IHS. ²
Community Health Center (CHC) Funding	H.R. 3358 recommends \$1,488,587,000 for Community Health Centers, which is \$1,935,000 below the FY 2017 enacted level.	The Community Health Center Fund expires on September 30, so Congress must approve H.R. 3358 before then to avoid the "CHC Fiscal Cliff," or pass a continued resolution.	Members of the I/T/U system that are also community health centers could face a 70% cut in CHC grant funds. Congress must act before September 30th to extend the Health Centers Fund for at least five years.



To voice your support of [S. 747](#), and concerns with [H.R. 3358](#), contact your legislators. You can search for your representatives [here](#).

References

- 1) Special Diabetes Program for Indians Outreach is Needed Now More Than Ever. National Indian Health Board. August 17, 2017. <https://www.nihb.org/>.
- 2) Quiet Cuts in the Republican Budget Would Be Devastating for American Indians and Alaska Natives Living With HIV. The Body. August 28, 2017. <http://www.thebody.com/content/80354/quiet-cuts-in-the-republican-budget-would-be-devas.html>