

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Udall and Young Introduce Legislation to Protect I/T/U

January 11, 2017

Sen. Tom Udall (NM) has proposed an amendment to protect Medicaid payments for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) receiving care through the IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health (I/T/U) system. This [amendment](#) to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 3, which sets the congressional budget for fiscal year 2017, was cosponsored by senators Tester (MT), Cantwell (WA), Franken (MN), Heitkamp (ND), Heinrich (NM), and Schatz (HI). SA 109 will create a point of order against eliminating or reducing federal payments received by an Indian health program or Urban Indian organization under Medicaid for services provided to eligible AI/ANs. This amendment will be voted on soon, likely January 12, 2017.

On January 4th, Senators Young (AK) and Ruiz (CA) introduced HR 292 to exempt AI/AN programs from sequestration. The bill's text is not out, but if it is the same as Young and Ruiz's [bill](#) in the 114th Congress, this bill would protect "all programs, regardless of their respective administering agencies, that primarily serve Indians, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations," including the IHS, the BIA, the BIE, and ANA.

It is in the best interest of all urban Indian health programs to contact their representatives to support this legislation. You can do so by writing a letter, calling, or e-mailing your DC delegation office.



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