

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Appropriations Update

January 18, 2018

Congress must pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) by this Friday, January 19th, or otherwise face a government shutdown. On Tuesday, the House of Representatives introduced their fourth CR since the beginning of FY 2018. This CR would fund the federal government through February 16th. To become law, the measure must pass the House before moving on to the Senate, and then be sent to the President for his signature.

- **This CR would provide a six-year extension to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).** CHIP Reauthorization has been an important goal for public health advocates since the program's expiration on September 30, 2017.
- **This CR does not include reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) beyond March 31st.** SDPI funds over 300 diabetes treatment and prevention programs nationally and helps more than 782,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) each year.<sup>1</sup> In addition to a higher rate of diabetes compared to the general population, AI/ANs with diabetes are also more likely to experience diabetes-related complications such as kidney failure, heart disease, and death.<sup>2</sup> SDPI targets these health disparities through critically needed programs and surveillance.
- **This CR does not include funding for Community Health Centers beyond March 31st.** Many Tribal 638 clinics and Urban Indian Health Programs depend on the Community Health Center Fund to provide access to healthcare services for their communities. A possible legislative vehicle for funding SDPI and the Community Health Center Fund would be a subsequent CR or omnibus budget package, which will be necessary once this fourth CR (if passed) expires on February 16th.
- **A government shutdown may occur due to strong stances on immigration.** While many Congressional Democrats are refusing to vote for any Continuing Resolution that does not reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, Republican leadership has declared that immigration is off the table during these appropriations negotiations. Without enough votes for the CR to pass, a government shutdown will occur, and IHS will stop funding Tribal 638 and Urban Indian Health Programs, forcing many programs to cut back services for AI/AN people or close their doors entirely until federal funding is restored.

To voice your concern, contact your legislators. You can find your Senators' contact information [here](#), and your House Representative's [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) Urban Indian Health Institute, Seattle Indian Health Board. (2017). Urban Diabetes Care and Outcomes Summary Report, Audit Years 2012-2016: Aggregate Results from Urban Indian Health Programs. Seattle, WA: Urban Indian Health Institute



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