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**Increase in IHS Funding for FY 2012
Passes Subcommittee Mark-up**

A nearly \$400 million increase in Federal funding to the Indian Health Service (IHS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 passed the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in a mark-up on July 7th. The Subcommittee's proposal would raise IHS's funding level from \$4.069 billion in FY 2011 enacted levels to \$4.462 billion in FY 2012, which results in an \$392 million increase. Although this increase is \$162 million less than President Obama's request, this additional funding is nonetheless sorely needed. The Subcommittee's proposal would include \$836,685,000 for Contract Health Services, \$427,259,000 for Indian Health Facilities and \$573,761,000 for Contract Support Costs. The Subcommittee mark-up is just the first step in the process for determining the final IHS budget for FY 2012. The proposal will be considered and marked up by the full House Committee on Appropriations on Tuesday, July 12th.

Debt Ceiling Talks Continue

As the House of Representatives moves through the appropriations process, the Obama Administration continues its bipartisan, bicameral negotiations with Congress to increase the nation's borrowing power, commonly referred to as the "debt ceiling." Without Congressional action, the Treasury Department will exceed its borrowing limit on August 2nd, thereby defaulting on the nation's debt.

On July 7th, President Obama hosted the top eight Congressional Leaders at the White House in an attempt to reach an agreement on raising the limit. It is clear that deficit reduction will be part of any package, but the parties clash over how to achieve this. Congressional Republicans have made an increase in the ceiling contingent upon spending reductions and entitlement reform (Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security), with Congressional Democrats looking to raise revenue from closing tax loopholes and increasing corporate tax rates. Ultimately, the group hopes to achieve deficit reductions between \$2 and \$4 trillion over a ten-year period. With entitlements and spending on the table for cuts, Indian Country could be profoundly impacted by these negotiations. Having reached no agreement on Thursday, the President will again host the Congressional Leaders for more discussion on Sunday July 10th.



HEALTH REFORM UPDATES

Anticipation for Release of Proposed Regulations on State Exchanges

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Kathleen Sebelius, is scheduled to make an announcement on Monday morning, July 11th, which many believe will be to reveal the highly anticipated proposed regulations governing the formation and function of the health insurance exchanges states must establish under the Affordable Care Act by 2014. NIHB is monitoring this situation closely and will report on any developments.

IHS Director Releases Update on Implementation of IHCA

On July 5th, Indian Health Service (IHS) Director, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, released a “Dear Tribal Leader” Letter updating Tribes on IHS’ progress in implementing Indian-specific provisions in the Affordable Care Act and new provisions in the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The letter contains a summary table of ACA and IHCA provisions with an added column on the status of implementation on each. To view the letter and summary table, please visit:

http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/index.cfm?module=tc_tribal_letters

IHS Hosts Consultation Summit

On July 6th and 7th the Indian Health Service (IHS) hosted the first-ever IHS Tribal Consultation Summit in Rockville, MD - a “one-stop shop” on Tribal consultation. Tribal Leaders heard about IHS consultation activities and topics, as well as presentations from IHS tribal advisory workgroups. The last day also included an update of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and of the Tribal access of the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI).

National Indian Health Board

28th Annual Consumer Conference

September 26—29, 2011

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska



NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP OF INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES FY 2012 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

DATE: JULY 12TH

TIME: 10:30 AM

ROOM: 2359 RAYBURN HOB

WHITE HOUSE/HHS TRIBAL OUTREACH CALL ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

DATE: JULY 12TH

TIME: 3:00 PM EST

CONFERENCE CALL #: 888-552-9182

PASS CODE: 1598939

CMS ALL TRIBES' CALL

JULY 15, 2011 1 – 2 PM ET

CALL IN NUMBER: 1-866-288-9872

PASSCODE: 165709

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON
SECTION 2402(A) OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE
ACT: OVERSIGHT AND ASSESSMENT OF
HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

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http://www.nihb.org/legislative/washington_report.php

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