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**Still Time to Register for NIHB's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Conference**

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) invites tribal leaders, health administrators, policy makers, and area health boards to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Conference (ACC) in Anchorage, Alaska at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center from September 26 to 29, 2011. The theme for this year's conference, *Health, Hope, and Heroes: Using the Foundations of Tribal Values and Knowledge to Advance Native Health!*, will provide a chance for attendees to discuss successes, challenges, opportunities, and the future of health care for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

NIHB plans to offer plenary and workshop sessions on topics including Medicare/Medicaid and tribal health, youth health, health care reform implementation, behavioral health, health information

technology and electronic medical records, and public health issues.

[VIEW THE LATEST 2011 ACC AGENDA](#)

**NEW AGENDA ITEM: September 27<sup>th</sup> Update on Contract Health Services Review by the US Office of Government Accountability (GAO)**

On September 23, 2011, the United States Office of Government Accountability (GAO) is expected to release a report on Contract Health Services in the Indian health care system. This session provides an opportunity for attendees to be briefed by the GAO on its research, methodology and the findings contained in the report. Attendees also will hear Tribal perspectives on the report.

You can register and learn more about the conference details [here](#). If you register before September 9, 2011 for the discounted rate of \$400, after September 9, 2011, registration will be \$475.

For more details, visit the [ACC's website](#) or contact NIHB Deputy Director, [Evangelyn "Angel" Dotomain](#)

**HILL UPDATES**

**White House Releases Jobs Plan**

During an evening address to a Joint Session of Congress on September 8<sup>th</sup>, President Obama unveiled a legislative plan to put Americans back to work. The \$447 billion



jobs plan entitled, *The American Jobs Act*, is designed to impact citizens from all walks of life, but especially the unemployed and underemployed, and small businesses. For more information on *The American Jobs Act*, please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog>

### **“Super Committee” Holds First Meeting**

The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, commonly referred to as the “Super Committee”, held its first hearing on September 8<sup>th</sup> ahead of a mandated first meeting date of September 16<sup>th</sup>. Created in the debt ceiling deal and tasked with finding between \$1.2 and \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction, the panel’s first meeting was simply introductory. Co-Chairs Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) read opening statements, as did other committee members. The Super Committee will hold its next public hearing entitled, “The History and Drivers of Our Nation’s Debt and Its Threats,” on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, which will include testimony from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Doug Elmendorf.

## **HEALTH REFORM UPDATES**

### **HHS Tribal Consultation on Exchanges Proposed Rulemaking Continues**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) conducted Tribal consultation in Denver, CO on September 7<sup>th</sup> on the Affordable Insurance Exchanges Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as well as other provisions in the Affordable Care Act. Doneg McDonough attended on behalf of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to discuss some concerns with HHS officials. He noted that while the passage of the Affordable Care Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act represent an opportunity to improve the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country, proper implementation of the

laws must occur in order to achieve this result. In particular, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) needs to raise their Federal trust responsibility to a sufficient level of importance, particularly in comparison to Center for Consumer Information and Oversight’s (CCIIO) goal of giving States maximum flexibility.

The final consultation session will be held next week in Washington, DC:

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**

**Washington, DC**

HHH Building: Great Hall  
200 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

### **Appeals Court Rejects Two ACA Challenges**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals threw out two legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act on procedural grounds: *Virginia vs. Sebelius* and *Liberty University vs. Geithner*. Plaintiffs in both cases argued that the law’s individual mandate, the requirement that all U.S. citizens purchase health insurance, is unconstitutional. However, the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit ruled that the State of Virginia has no right to bring suit because the “the sole provision challenged here — the individual mandate — imposes no obligations” on the state itself.

In the *Liberty University* case, the Court ruled that the challenge has come too soon. Agreeing with the Obama Administration that the penalty for not carrying insurance is a tax, the Court cited the Anti-Injunction Act, which requires Americans who challenge taxes to pay the first tax and then request a refund. Under this ruling, *Liberty University* would not be able to challenge the mandate until the provision goes into effect in 2014.





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## NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON

### **HHS SECRETARY'S TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>—14<sup>TH</sup>

#### **SENATE HELP COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY HEALTH AND AGING HEARING, "IS POVERTY A DEATH SENTENCE?"**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 430 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE  
BUILDING

#### **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION HEARING ON "THE HISTORY AND DRIVERS OF OUR NATION'S DEBT AND ITS THREATS"**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: 216 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

#### **HHS TRIBAL CONSULTATION ON AFFORDABLE INSURANCE EXCHANGES NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM)**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

LOCATION: HHH BUILDING: GREAT HALL  
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE., S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

#### **HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON, "CUTTING THE RED TAPE: SAVING JOBS FROM PPACA'S HARMFUL REGULATIONS"**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 2123 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE  
BUILDING

