

# **PRESS RELEASE: Senate Passes First FY 2020 Appropriations Minibus with Interior Spending Package**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Senate Passes First FY 2020 Appropriations Minibus with Interior Spending Package**

### **Minibus includes \$53 million for Urban Indian Health**

The Senate passed its first fiscal 2020 spending package on Thursday, as lawmakers have only a few weeks left to prevent a government shutdown. This approximately \$332 billion [package](#), cleared the full Senate by a final vote of 84-9, and included spending bills for the departments of Interior, Agriculture-FDA, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-HUD.

The House minibus was passed in June, under [H.R. 3055](#). The Senate minibus, known as minibus #2, provides a lower overall funding level for the Indian Health Service (IHS) at roughly \$6 billion in FY 2020, compared to \$6.3 billion under the House minibus. So far, negotiations between the House and Senate on a final spending package has shown little to no progress, as the current Continuing Resolution (CR) is set to expire on November 21, 2019.

According to the House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman [Nita Lowey](#) (D-N.Y.) another stopgap measure through February or March would most likely be necessary - although House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) publicly declare all twelve FY 2020 appropriations bills will be completed by the beginning of the New Year.

The National Council of Urban Indian Health has tirelessly advocated both the House and the Senate to increase *the urban Indian health line item*. In May, the House Appropriations Committee approved the [FY 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill](#) that included an approximated \$30 million increase for urban Indian health care in the Indian Health Service budget- bringing funding to **\$81 million** for Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). Shortly after, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced a [\\$35 billion Interior spending package](#) to include a recommendation of \$53 million for the Urban Indian Health program, an approximate increase of almost \$2 million above the current enacted level.

### **House**

- IHS - \$6.3 billion
- Urban Indian Health - \$81 million

## **Senate**

- IHS - \$6.04 billion
- Urban Indian Health - \$53 million

## **Contact Congress**

As Congress works to shape the federal government's budget, there is still time for you to contact your member of Congress today and tell them to prioritize increased funding for urban Indian health!

- [NCUIH's Letter to the Senate Committee on Appropriations](#)
- [Sample Letter to Send to Congress](#)
- [Member of Congress Contact Information](#)