

[NCUIH Endorses Bill to Understand and Address Long COVID, Including in Urban Indian Communities](#)

Category: Policy Blog

written by Meredith Raimondi | May 11, 2022

On March 3, 2022, Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) [introduced](#) the *Comprehensive Access to Resources and Education (CARE) for Long COVID Act (S. 3726)*. This bill would improve research on long COVID as well as expand resources for those dealing with the long-term impacts of the virus. Specifically, the bill authorizes \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to fund grants to eligible entities, **including Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations (UIOs)**, to support legal and social service assistance for individuals with long COVID or related post-viral illnesses. Additionally, UIOs are included in outreach and research activities of the long-term symptoms of COVID-19 by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund.

“The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is pleased to endorse Senator Kaine’s *Comprehensive Access to Resources and Education (CARE) for Long COVID Act*. The pandemic has taken a disproportionate toll Indian Country and the public health crisis continues to affect Native communities experiencing symptoms of long COVID. This bill is a step in the right direction to better understand the long-term effects of the virus and provide support for those suffering.” - **Francys Crevier (Algonquin), CEO, NCUIH**.

The *Comprehensive Access to Resources and Education (CARE) for Long COVID Act* is co-sponsored by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Edward Markey (D-MA), and Tina Smith (D-MN). The bill was referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. It currently awaits consideration.

This bill has been added to the NCUIH legislative tracker and can be found [here](#).

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating and disproportionate impacts on American Indians/Alaska Natives and continue to feel the lingering effects of the virus. This legislation aims to address this issue by:

- Accelerating research by centralizing data regarding long COVID patient experiences;
- Increasing understanding of treatment efficacy and disparities by expanding research to provide recommendations to improve the health care system’s responses to long COVID;
- Educating long COVID patients and medical providers by working with the CDC to develop and provide the public with information on common symptoms, treatment, and other related illnesses;
- Facilitating interagency coordination to educate employers and schools on the impact of long COVID and employment, disability, and education rights for people with long COVID; and
- Developing partnerships between community-based organizations, social service providers, and legal assistance providers to help people with long COVID access needed services.

[Senate Text of Bill](#)

[Senator Kaine's Press Release](#)