

Action Alert: Save Native Lives - Contact Speaker Pelosi Today to Take Action

Category: Advance Appropriations, Policy Blog
written by Meredith Raimondi | August 18, 2022

Dear Urban Indian Health Advocates,

The National Council of Urban Indian Health is advocating tirelessly to Congress to ensure advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service.

We need your help again contacting Congress to support securing Advance Appropriations and mandatory funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Indian health system, including IHS, Tribal facilities, and urban Indian organizations (UIOs), is the only major federal health care provider funded through annual appropriations.

If IHS were to receive advance appropriations, it would ensure continuity of care for Native Americans and complement President Biden's budget request to honor commitments to tribal nations and communities. In fact, there have been Native deaths due to government shutdowns in the past, and the lives of Native people should not be subject to politics. We need this to protect Native people and preserve access to health care.

We encourage you to contact Speaker Pelosi and request that she support including advance appropriations for IHS in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 final spending package. You can use the text below as a template to call and/or email Speaker Pelosi.

Thank you for your leadership. Your outreach on this is invaluable to providing greater access to health care for all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

The National Council of Urban Indian Health

STEPS TO CONTACT CONGRESS

- **Step 1:** Copy the email below.
- **Step 2:** Find Speaker Pelosi's contact [here](#).
- **Step 3:** Paste the email into the form and send. Please contact Meredith Raimondi (policy@ncuih.org) with questions.

Email to Speaker Pelosi

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As an Indian health advocate, I respectfully request you ensure the inclusion of advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 final spending package until mandatory funding for the agency can be achieved.

The Indian health system, including IHS, Tribal facilities, and urban Indian organizations (UIOs), is the only major federal health care provider funded through annual appropriations. If IHS were to receive advance appropriations, it would not be subject to government shutdowns, automatic sequestration cuts, and continuing resolutions as its funding for the next year would already be in place. We need this to protect Native lives!

"I respectfully ask that you honor the federal trust obligation to American Indians/Alaska Natives and ensure advance appropriations for IHS can finally be made a reality this year.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to upholding the United States trust responsibility.

Sincerely,
[contact information]

POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

Post your support on your Facebook.

- Example post:
 - *The Indian health system, including IHS, Tribal facilities, and urban Indian organizations, is the only major federal health care provider funded through annual appropriations. If IHS were to receive mandatory funding, or at the least, advance appropriations, it would not be subject to government shutdowns and continuing resolutions. You can make a difference! Call Speaker Pelosi to support advance appropriations in the FY23 funding bills.*

TWITTER

From your Twitter account, tweet to Speaker Pelosi.

- Example tweet:
 - *Dear @SpeakerPelosi, please support advance appropriations for IHS in FY23 #IndianHealth #urbanIndianhealth @ncuih_official.*