

UPDATED: Contact Congress to Increase Funding for Urban Indian Health TODAY

Category: Policy Blog

written by LMaddocks | March 17, 2023

Dear Urban Indian Health Advocates,

We need your help contacting Congress to support increased healthcare resources for urban Native communities.

Representatives Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-3) and Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ-7) are again leading a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. This subcommittee appropriates funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs).

The letter requests an increase for the urban Indian health line item to \$973.59 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and retaining appropriations for IHS. Adequate funding for urban Indian health is necessary to fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to all American Indians and Alaska Natives. The proposed amount is determined by the Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (TBFWG) as part of the request for full funding for IHS at \$51.4 billion.

We encourage you to contact your Member of Congress and request that they sign the Gallego-Grijalva Urban Indian Health Letter by the deadline of March 17.

You can use the text below as a template to call and/or email to email your Member of Congress. You can find your representative [here](#).

Sincerely,

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)

STEPS TO CONTACT CONGRESS

- Step 1: Copy the email below.
 - Step 2: Find your representative [here](#).
 - Step 3: Paste the email into the form and send. Please contact Lycia Maddocks (LMaddocks@ncuih.org) with questions.
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Email to Your Member of Congress

Dear Representative,

As an urban Indian health advocate, I respectfully request you sign on to the Gallego-Grijalva letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. The letter requests an increase for the urban Indian health line item to \$973.59 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and retaining appropriations for IHS. Adequate funding

for urban Indian health is necessary to fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to all American Indians and Alaska Natives. The proposed amount is determined by the Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (TBFWG) as part of the request for full funding for IHS at \$51.4 billion.

It is the policy of the United States "to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to provide all resources necessary to effect that policy." This requires that funding for Indian health must be significantly increased if the federal government is to finally fulfill its trust responsibility. At a minimum, funding must be maintained and protected as budget-cutting measures are being considered.

We respectfully ask that you join this year to help honor the federal trust obligation and support the overall health and well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

To sign on to the letter, please contact Emma Reidy (Emma.Reidy@mail.house.gov) from Gallego's office by this Friday, March 17.

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

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]