

TOM UDALL
3D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

1410 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190

811 SAINT MICHAELS DRIVE
SUITE 104
SANTA FE, NM 87505
(505) 984-8950

STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

AT-LARGE WHIP

www.tomudall.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**CO-VICE CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS**

February 26, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Capitol
H-232
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As you are certainly aware, the United States Senate today passed S. 1200, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007, by a vote of 83-10. This important legislation makes critically important changes to, and reauthorizes for the first time in over a decade, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. I write to respectfully urge you to schedule this legislation for floor consideration in the House as soon as possible.

Our nation's health care system is badly in need of reform. But nowhere is the issue of inadequate health care more acute and in need of improvement than on Native American lands and in the Indian Health Service (IHS) agency. While S. 1200 is not a panacea that would immediately fix every one of the problems plaguing the access to care and the quality of care for Native Americans, it is an important and long overdue step towards modernizing the Indian health care system.

I certainly appreciate that there are many pressing issues facing our nation that deserve our attention and consideration. I would like to reiterate, however, how important the modernization of the Indian health care system is to the many Native Americans I have the honor of representing in Congress, as well as to the well over one million throughout the country. Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to working with you on this and the other critical issues facing our nation.

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

TU/mc

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GALLUP, NM 87301
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RIO RANCHO CITY HALL
3200 CIVIC CENTER CIRCLE, NE
SUITE 330
RIO RANCHO, NM 87144
(505) 994-0499