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**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515-3103**

**September 19, 2008**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

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**CO-VICE CHAIR  
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NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS**

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

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

As you are certainly aware, despite glaring inadequacies in access to health care and a critical need for improvement of health care on tribal lands, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act has not been reauthorized in over a decade. H.R. 1328, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007, would reauthorize, improve, and update the Indian Health Care Act in an attempt to remedy the unacceptable health care system too many Native Americans face today. I write to respectfully urge you to include this legislation in any Continuing Resolution considered by the House.

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). Although the Senate has passed legislation to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, I believe H.R. 1328 more effectively addresses the health care challenges faced by tribes in New Mexico and throughout the nation.

I understand that many pressing issues facing our nation deserve the attention and consideration of Congress at this time. I would like to reiterate, however, how important the modernization of the Indian health care system is, not only to the tribes and pueblos of my home state, but also to the more than one million Native Americans from other parts of the country who depend on IHS. For them as well as for me, reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Act has been a priority for many years. Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to working with you on any Continuing Resolution to address this and other critical issues facing our country.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress

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