



KAW NATION

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June 14, 2006

Betty Gould
Regulations Officer
Division of Regulatory Affairs
Records Access and Policy Liaison
Indian Health Service
801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 450
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Ms. Gould,

The Kaw Nation supports the proposed rule on Section 506 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 that was published in the Federal Register April 28, 2006. This rule is very important to Indian Country.

The proposed rule prohibits hospitals from charging Contract Health Services more than the amount that Medicare pays for the same service. The financial savings from this new payment system will extend much needed Contract Health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

American Indians and Alaska Natives are trying to stretch their under funded Contract Health Services dollars to serve the most critical health needs. The money saved will go to providing more health care to families that depend upon this system for their health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Guy Munroe
Kaw Nation Chairman