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## Indian Health Service

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### Statement by

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### ON THE SIGNING OF LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

Yesterday the President signed bill J.R. 5738, which was passed by unanimous consent by the Congress, to extend the authorization and funding for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. The continued funding through 2008 of special programs developed since 1998 will ultimately help us reach our goal of eliminating the health disparity of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

This legislation acknowledges the effectiveness of the more than 300 new diabetes programs that were developed to treat and prevent type 2 diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. This funding will continue these excellent programs and also allow for attention to two areas of particular concern to Tribes – the prevention of type 2 diabetes in Indian youth and children, and the prevention of cardiovascular disease, the number one killer of American Indian and Alaska Native people, who already have diabetes.

In the months since the beginning of this Administration, Tribal Governments and the Federal government have worked to make a positive difference in the treatment and prevention of diabetes in Indian Country. That hard work has paid off with the passage of this most important bill that will improve the quality of life for many families and individuals who suffer from diabetes and, more importantly, help reduce the number of cases in the future.

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For a copy of the law that was presented to and signed by the President, [click here](#).