

Legislative Update

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Chief Executive Officer

California Rural Indian Health Board, INC.



H.R.667 - Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center Access Improvement Act

This bill authorizes the Indian Health Service (IHS) to purchase certain private land in Hemet, California, at fair market value and then construct a paved road on that land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center. The IHS shall maintain the road or enter an agreement with Riverside County, California, to maintain the road.

Sponsor:	Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36] (Introduced 02/01/2021)
Committees:	House - Natural Resources; Energy and Commerce
Latest Action:	House - 02/01/2021 Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Cosponsor

Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]*
Rep. Cardenas, Tony [D-CA-29]*
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]*

Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]*
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-50]

Tribal Health Facility Resilience Project

Many THPs in California continue to face unique challenges such as combatting wildfires, high winds, and adhering to the state's de-energization protocols (also known as Public Safety Power Shutoff events).

Due to these factors, often they are forced to close as they do not have the energy infrastructure to maintain operations during power outages.

Tribes and Tribal organizations are working to improve resiliency by equipping these clinics with power generators tailored to their specific needs.

\$3 Trillion American Infrastructure Bill announced by the Biden Administration

Current CA Tribal Requests:

- Guide IHS to include Tribes in the CA IHS Area in the IHS Health Facilities Construction Priority System.
- Appropriate resources to compensate Tribal entities that have acquired loans and/or used their 3rd party health care funds and other resources to build THPs, due to being essentially excluded from participation in the IHS Health Facilities Construction Priority System.
- Guide IHS to lift the funding cap it has imposed per project under the Small Ambulatory program for Tribes in Areas essentially excluded from the IHS Health Facilities Construction Priority System.
- Guide IHS to provide equitable access to the Joint Venture program for Tribes in Areas essentially excluded from the IHS Health Facilities Construction Priority System.
- Appropriate resources to provide community infrastructure support necessary to effectively operate THPs, including but not limited to, water, sewer, power, roads, transportation, connectivity and fire protection.
- Appropriate resources to THPs to provide clinically appropriate levels of staff, including but not limited to, providers, outreach and home health care services.

\$3 Trillion American Infrastructure Bill announced by the Biden Administration (Cont.)

Current Content under Consideration for Inclusion in Bill:

Health Care Facilities Construction

- At least \$21 billion for Health Care Facilities Construction, including but not be limited to, support for new and current planned projects, the Small Ambulatory Health Center Program, and the Joint Venture Construction Program.
- At least \$2 billion for behavioral health facilities.
- At least \$1.8 billion for equipment.
- At least \$750 million for maintenance and improvement of Indian Health Service and Tribal Facilities.
- At least \$580 million devoted to incorporating sustainability features into construction projects (new and existing facilities).
- At least \$2.9 billion for Sanitation Facilities Construction.

\$3 Trillion American Infrastructure Bill announced by the Biden Administration (Cont.)

Public Health Infrastructure

- At least \$3 billion Electronic Health Records and Health IT Modernization.
- At least \$2.8 billion for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund.
- Full funding for the Indian Health Service at \$48 billion.
- Codify a permanent Tribal set-aside in the Strategic National Stockpile at a minimum 5 percent.
- Reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) through FY26 and increase funding to \$200 million annually.
- Establish the Native Behavioral Health Grant Program for I/T/U and fund through FY26 at \$200 million annually.
- Authorize advance appropriations to insulate Indian health care providers from government shutdowns and allow for long-term planning.

\$3 Trillion American Infrastructure Bill announced by the Biden Administration (Cont.)

Tribal Health Workforce Development

- Establish a Tribal set-aside within annual Medicare funding of \$16 billion in Graduate Medical Education (GME) and remove administrative barriers in GME funding by Indian operated hospitals.
- Make IHS Loan Repayment Program tax-exempt.
- Establish a Tribal set-aside in Public Health Scholarships.
- At least \$2 billion for improved housing options and long-term livable standards for IHS workforce.
- Fully fund the Community Health Aide Program for implementation in the lower 48 states.



Thank you