

Legislative Update

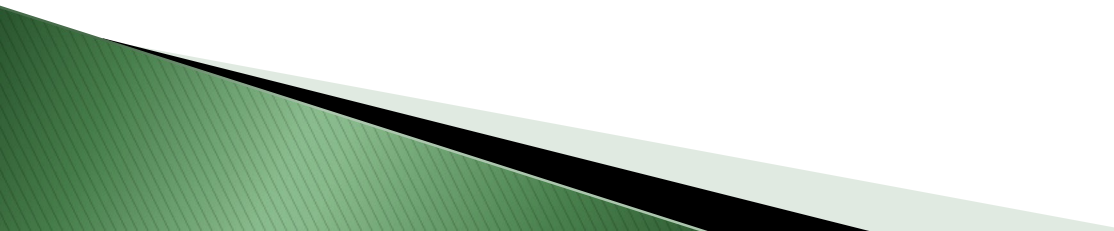
**Presented at 2023 Indian Health
Service/California Area Office Annual Tribal
Consultation & Listening Session**

By

Dr. Mark LeBeau



Annual March on Washington reignited after pandemic!

- ▶ Over 30 Tribal representatives from southern, central, and northern CA met with 40 Congressional reps. March 27–31, 2023
 - ▶ Tribal reps. provided educational information on the current level of support being provided in the CA Area for PRC, facilities, staffing, diabetes prevention and response, the acquisition of generators by Tribal clinics, and other services
 - ▶ They also provided information on the positive impact IHS ambulance services would have in the Area
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2023 March on Washington Participants

Teresa Ballew Hannah Banuelos Laura Borden Gail Burcell Jolene Carley Louise Davis Robert England Desiree Franco Nancy Galindo Joseph Giovannetti Shawn Gonzales	Jennifer Goodwin John Green LaWanda Green Lezlie Heckel Lesley Hunt Maria Hunzeker Jonell John Rondi Johnson Trinidad Krystall Carol Larsen Leonella Leash	Erik Lyon Rick Maddux Donna Medrano Melissa Myers Runningbear Ramirez Teresa Sanchez Bill Thomsen Catalina VillaMontes Ashlee Witcraft & Several Youth Leaders
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Save the Date



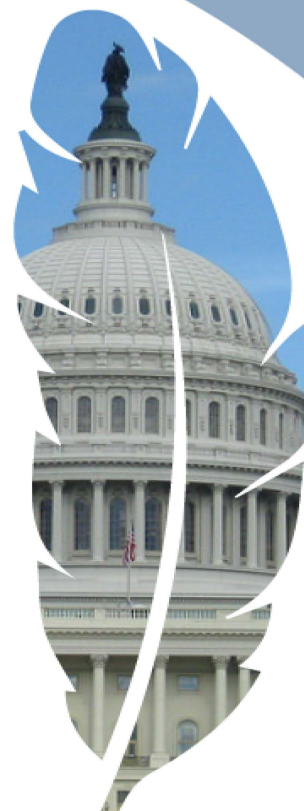
March 27 - 31, 2023

(During the Cherry Blossom Festival)

The Hyatt Place Washington DC /National Mall

400 E. Street SW,
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 803-6110

To RSVP and to reserve your room, please contact
Niealie Petit, Administrative Assistant, at (916)
929-9761 ext. 1401 or npetit@crihb.org



House Interior Appropriations American Indian Public Witness Day Testimony

On March 9, 2023, Catalina VillaMontes, Riverside – San Bernardino Indian Health, Inc. Board Member, and Dr. LeBeau testified before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee regarding additional services and support needed in CA



Emergency Equipment for Native American Health Care Facilities

FY24 Interior Appropriations Conference Request

ISSUE: The increasing frequency of catastrophic wildfires has caused energy companies to institute the practice of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) to minimize the risks of loss of life from extreme climate events (see map below for high fire-threat areas in California). When certain conditions are present, the local utility institutes a PSPS to protect local communities from the risk of deadly wildfires. Some of the conditions that could trigger a PSPS include:

- A “Red Flag” warning from the National Weather Service
- Low humidity levels (below 20%)
- Forecasted sustained winds of 25mph with expected gusts of more than 45mph
- Conditions of dry fuel on the ground combined with low moisture

PROBLEMS FOR TRIBAL HEALTH CENTERS: While a PSPS is an important tool to minimize loss of life from wildfires, a PSPS can have dire consequences for rural health care facilities. These issues can be especially acute for Native American communities. Many Tribal Health Programs (THPs) are located in remote areas. When these clinics experience a power outage, it places the lives of patients, staff members, and visitors at risk. Recent improvements in the distribution of vaccines, antiretroviral drugs, and other supplies and services have introduced new demands for electricity in clinics with little or no access to reliable electrical power.