



Rec'd 6/27/06

White Eagle Health Center

200 WHITE EAGLE DRIVE PONCA CITY, OK 74601
PHONE (580) 765-2501 FAX (580) 765-6348

June 20, 2006

Re: Comments on Section 506, MMA, 203-Medicare Like Rates Provision

Betty Gould, Regulation Officer
Division of Regulatory Affairs, Records
Access and Policy Liaison
Indian Health Service
801 Thompson Ave, Suite 450
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Ms. Gould,

As the Chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, I would like to provide my support to the comments you have already received from Mr. Allan Harder, Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Board on "Section 506 of the Medicare Prescription Drug improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 – Limitation for Charges Furnished by Medicare Participating Inpatient Hospitals to Indians" as published in the Federal Register/Vol. 71 No. 82/Friday, April 28, 2003.

After carefully studying the review completed by the Indian Health Service and the Area Indian Health Boards on Section 506 and the potential outcome it represents to tribally operated health facilities such as ours, I fully concur with their findings and support the implementation of the proposed rule. As you are probably aware the Level of Care for Native Americans is far behind the national level and I look for the proposed change to narrow this gap for the Native population that continues to grow.

I and other tribal leaders look for a positive change in this matter for our respective tribal members who depend upon the health care provided by our health facilities and Contract Health Care funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Jones, Chairman
Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma