



## Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

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June 23, 2006

Ms. Betty Gould, Regulations Officer  
Division of Regulatory Affairs, Records Access and Policy Liaison  
Indian Health Service  
801 Thompson Ave #450  
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Ms. Gould:

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma appreciates the opportunity to comment on Section 506 of the **"Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003-Limitation on Charges for Services Furnished by Medicare Participating Inpatient Hospitals to Indians"** as published in the Federal Register/Volume 71 No. 82, Friday, April 28, 2006.

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma supports the implementation of the proposed rule. Tribally-operated health programs, area health boards, Indian health service, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services have all done extensive reviews of this rule and potential outcomes. They have all determined that extending Medicare-Like rates to the Indian Health Service/ tribally-operated health programs/ urban programs will have a noticeable positive effect on many of the I/T/U programs which operate at approximately 50% of the level of need as presently funded.

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma stands in support of the proposed rule and strongly encourages the implementation and approval of the act.

Sincere regards,

E. Bernadette Huber  
Tribal Chairman