



JUL 26 2012

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to request your consultation regarding amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act of 2009 (Act) enacted by the Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148). Sections 1601(5), 1631(f), 1660d, and 1665k(a)(2)(A)(vii), require the Indian Health Service (IHS) to confer with Urban Indian organizations, to the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out the Act.

Congress has determined that it is the policy of this Nation, in fulfillment of its special trust responsibilities and legal obligation to Indians, to require that ***all actions under this Act*** shall be carried out with active and meaningful consultation with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, and conference with Urban Indian organizations, to implement the Act and the national policy of Indian Self-Determination.

The IHS is committed to meaningful consultation with Tribes and Tribal organizations to develop the conferring policy and procedures with Urban Indian organizations. I have enclosed the Agency's "*Draft Policy on Conferring with Urban Indian Organizations*" for your review and comment. We will update this policy as needed after reviewing input from this consultation.

Please provide your input no later than 45 days after the date this letter is signed.

Comments may be submitted as follows:

- E-mailed comments may be sent to urbanconfer@ihs.gov.
- Comments delivered by postal mail may be sent to the following address:

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Indian Health Service
801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 440
Rockville, MD 20852

We look forward to working with you to develop this vital policy.

Sincerely,

/Yvette Roubideaux/

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosure