

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
Subcommittee on Water and Power  
Subcommittee on Parks, Forests and  
Public Lands – *Ranking Member*

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,  
Elementary and Secondary Education  
Subcommittee on Higher Education and  
Workforce Training

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS,  
Co-Chair



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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Ms. Cindy Mann, Director  
Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Cindy Mann,

I would like to inquire on behalf of the American Indians and Alaska Natives in my district on the issues that are withholding a decision to grant the IHS/Tribal Health Program Waiver Exemptions portion of Arizona's 1115 Medicaid waiver request.

As noted in your October 7<sup>th</sup> letter: "... the request raises a number of complex issues. This request is important to us as well as to the State and to the Arizonan tribes. We have been very actively engaged in working through these issues and expect to have a decision in the near future." To best serve my constituents I would like a further explanation on the complex issues that are being considered including any specific statutes that you feel may be problematic to granting them this request.

While I have not supported Arizona's new waiver request overall, it is the obligation of the federal government to provide health care to the American Indian populations in our nation. The state's decision to terminate health coverage should not impact the native populations and this exemption is the only way to ensure that does not happen. Unfortunately, these populations in my district face great challenges and disproportionate health outcomes. Continual delay in a decision greatly harms Indian people in Arizona, many of whom are Medicaid eligible enrolled individuals in the AHCCCS Acute Fee for Service Program for American Indians served by the Indian Health Service system.

To prevent further disproportionate health outcomes and loss of services I would greatly appreciate more detailed information on what the CMS considers are the exact issues preventing a decision. I appreciate you sharing this information with me.

Sincerely,

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress