**ACTION: Contact Congress and Demand they Pass 5-year Renewal of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians**

Background

There continues to be significant bipartisan support for SDPI. Last year, 87% of members in the House of Representatives, and nearly 70% of Senators signed a letter to congressional leadership supporting long-term renewal of SDPI.

**But Congress has yet to do its job**. Since September 2019, Congress has only been renewing SDPI in short increments of several weeks, or several months. Right now, SDPI is set to expire on May 22. That is completely unacceptable. **These short-term extensions have caused significant distress for our programs and created undue challenges for our patients and community members that rely on it**.

In December 2019, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden, along with Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Alexander, announced a deal that would reauthorize SDPI at $150 million per year for 5 years. **Why has this critically important bill not passed already?** Congress needs to pass 5-year renewal NOW.

Talking Points

* Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) to address high rates of Type-2 diabetes among American Indians and Alaska Natives.
* At $150 million per year, SDPI funds 301 grantees across Indian Country for culturally appropriate diabetes prevention and treatment services.
* SDPI is one of the most successful public health programs ever implemented. Because of SDPI, rates of End Stage Renal Disease and diabetic eye disease have dropped by more than half.
* Our People are living healthier and stronger lives because of SDPI.
* SDPI is so successful that a 2019 federal report found it’s responsible for saving Medicare $52 million per year. No other program can claim that victory. **Not only does SDPI saves lives, it saves millions of taxpayer dollars doing it.**
* Our programs are losing medical and public health providers because we don’t know if we’ll have the money to continue paying them. Our patients are very concerned about whether vital diabetes services will remain available at our clinics. Our program officers aren’t able to launch new wellness programs or engage in long-term planning.
* If we were to lose SDPI, we not only risk turning back the clock on all the incredible gains in our People’s health, our People’s lives will be lost.
* Certainty of funding is critical for my Tribal community. Without it, we can’t engage in long-term program planning, hire needed personnel, and expand services. A 5 year reauthorization of SDPI would provide the longest stretch of guaranteed funding in over a decade. Our community needs 5-year renewal now.
* **We urge you to support swift passage of a five-year reauthorization of SDPI as put forth in a bipartisan and bicameral package from House Energy and Commerce and Senate HELP leaders.**
* **We also request that you immediately weigh in with your leadership to demand a vote on five-year renewal of SDPI and all health extenders that are on the verge of expiring! Our programs must be reauthorized for 5 years!**