

# National Indian Health Board



April 26, 2022

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S House of Representatives  
2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cole:

On behalf of the National Indian Heath Board (NIHB) and the 574 federally recognized Tribal nations and Member organizations we serve, we are pleased to share our support for H.R 7455, the *Indian Health Service Contract Support Cost Amendment Act*. This bill amends the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) to provide for tribal contract support cost (CSC) from the Indian Health Service (IHS) in a manner identical to practices in place prior to the *Cook Inlet*<sup>1</sup> decision.

NIHB strongly supports this important legislation, and we are grateful for your leadership in championing this correction. H.R 7455 will ensure Tribal programs can continue operating their programs and treating their patients without reduction in current IHS CSC.

The IHS Contract Support Cost Amendment Act is a critical step toward honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal nations as those working under self-governance contracts and compacts are striving to provide quality health care to their citizens. H.R 7455 is critically important to the Tribes.

Advocating to protect and strengthen fair IHS Contract Support Costs as well as mandatory CSC are priorities of the National Indian Health Board. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, NIHB and 14 Tribal organizations wrote to Congressional leadership to find a legislative repair to CSC caused by the *Cook Inlet* appeal. Today, NIHB is proud to stand with you in this endeavor and will work for the success of H.R 7455.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Ciara Johnson, NIHB Legislative Associate, at [cjohnson@nihb.org](mailto:cjohnson@nihb.org). Thank you for advocating for Tribal nations and we stand with you to achieve the successful passage of H.R 7455.

Yours In Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Smith".

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<sup>1</sup> Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. v. Dotomain, 10 F.4<sup>th</sup> 892 (D.C Cir. 2021)

William Smith, *Valdez Native Tribe*

Chairman

National Indian Health Board

Cc: Chairman, Ranking Member and Members, House Natural Resources Committee  
Co-Chairs, House Native American Caucus  
NIHB Board of Directors  
NIHB Chief Executive Officer  
NIHB Member Organizations