

February 6, 2008

Dear Urban Indian Health Program Participants and Advocates:

President Bush has, once again, recommended elimination of Urban Indian Health Program funding in the Administration's proposed FY 2009 Budget. This is the third consecutive year that the Administration has attempted to shut down the Urban Indian Health Programs. If the proposal is successful, the Urban Indian Health Programs across the country will be severely limited and, according to our estimate, over half would be forced to close down.

For the past two years you have shown your support for these clinics by signing a petition letter that we have taken to your Congressional Representatives. Congress has listened and has reinstated funding in both FY'07 and FY'08. We are hoping that with your help the Urban Indian Health Program can continue to serve the estimated 150,000 Native Americans treated annually.

We once again ask that you show Congress how important Urban Indian Health Programs are by signing the enclosed petition letter and mailing it back to us.

Alternatively, please be aware that you can also submit an electronic version of the petition letter online at www.ncuih.org.

Once you have mailed or electronically submitted the petition letter, we will ensure that your letter makes it to all of your Congressional Representatives in Washington, DC. *To avoid duplicate letters, please do not submit any additional petition letters online or when you visit your local clinic.*

Thank you for your support. Your assistance is invaluable to us in our continued fight to secure long-term health care funding for American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban environments.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Roth
Executive Director
National Council of Urban Indian Health