

BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA, CHAIRMAN
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA, VICE CHAIRMAN

DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
KENT CONRAD, NORTH DAKOTA
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
JON TESTER, MONTANA

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
TOM COBURN, M.D., OKLAHOMA
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
GORDON SMITH, OREGON
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA

SARA G. GARLAND, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID A. MULLON JR., MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6450

<http://indian.senate.gov>

February 15, 2008

Dear Tribal Leader:

As you may know I have been pushing very hard to get the United States Senate to complete its work on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

I am pleased to tell you that we now have unanimous consent to complete the five amendments and vote on final passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act on Monday, February 25 and Tuesday, February 26. February 26 will be a real day of celebration when we finally -- after 8 long years -- get that legislation through the United States Senate.

I made the passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act the highest priority of our Indian Affairs Committee, and although it's taken awhile, I believe we are finally going to get this done in this Congress.

As you know I feel strongly that there is a full scale health care crisis in much of Indian country. We have health rationing going on in a manner that all of us should reject. It's long past the time for this country to keep its promise to the first Americans, and I intend to fight to try to make it happen.

I just wanted to let you know that we are at long last headed towards final passage because of the unanimous consent request we made last evening to finish the bill when we get back from the Senate recess that is occurring this week.

Thank you for the support of your tribe and the work that all Indian tribes have done to get to this point where we might finally celebrate the passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act through the United States Senate.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
U.S.S.