



Nez Perce

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 305 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540 • (208) 843-2253

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Rayburn House Office Building 2207
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair, House Interior-Environment
Subcommittee
Rayburn House Office Building 2084
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee
Rayburn House Office Building 2413
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member, House Interior-Environment
Subcommittee
Rayburn House Office Building 2354
Washington, DC 20515

Protecting FY 2026 Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree:

We are writing on behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe to ensure that Congress includes advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) in any year-long continuing resolution it considers, in line with the anomalies requested by the Trump Administration. Since advance appropriations are typically provided in the prior year's final appropriations bill, we are concerned that the IHS will not receive them under a year-long continuing resolution. The IHS should not be harmed by unrelated political disputes in Washington, D.C., and we look to you as strong partners on this issue to ensure that this does not happen.

Nez Perce Tribe

The federal government has a trust and treaty obligation to provide for the health and well-being of Tribal Nations. In 2022, Congress made meaningful progress toward fully realizing this responsibility by providing the IHS with advance appropriations for the first time in agency history. Previously, the IHS was the only federal healthcare provider without guaranteed funding from year to year. As a result, the IHS was frequently impacted by government shutdowns, causing interruptions, delays, or even cancellations of medical services. The

constant threat of shutdown created significant stress for our clinic, staff, and patients, as we were left uncertain about whether our desperately needed funding would be available. Now, with advance appropriations in place, our patients no longer face the risk of death or serious harm due to delays in the funding process. We can provide uninterrupted care and plan for the future with confidence—something that was unimaginable before this policy change. This has been a truly life-changing improvement for both our clinic and our patients.

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support of advance appropriations for the IHS and thank you for including this important policy in every appropriations bill since FY 2023. We are also very appreciative that you explicitly protected advance appropriations for the IHS in the House FY 2025 Budget Resolution (H.Con.Res.14). It is encouraging that the Trump Administration included FY 2026 IHS advance appropriations in its list of anomalies submitted to Congress—

An anomaly will be included to provide discretionary accounts for which advance appropriations were provided for FY 2025 in the FY 2024 appropriations Acts with the same amounts for FY 2026 respectively.

We strongly support this request and urge that you to include it in any yearlong continuing resolution. Advance appropriations are necessary to ensure the stability of our funding and the quality of care we provide our citizens. Given the support from all sides, we trust that you will protect of our healthcare system by providing advance appropriations for the IHS for FY 2026.

Thank you so much for your continued partnership on this issue. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



for Shannon F. Wheeler
Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee