

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57  
INTRODUCED BY L. WHITFORD

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A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO RETAIN PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT WHEN MAKING CHANGES TO THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

WHEREAS, studies have shown that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a lower life expectancy than other races and experience higher rates of many diseases, including diabetes and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, the United States entered into treaties and other agreements with Indian tribes that created a trust responsibility to, among other things, provide for the health and well-being of Indian peoples in return for land ceded by the tribes; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Snyder Act in 1921 to provide appropriations for health services to tribes throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress in 1976 enacted the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, declaring "it is the policy of this Nation, in fulfillment of its special responsibilities and legal obligation to the American Indian people, to meet the national goal of providing the highest possible health status to Indians and to provide existing Indian health services with all resources necessary to effect that policy"; and

WHEREAS, Congress periodically revised and reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act before permanently reauthorizing the act as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2010; and

WHEREAS, in the face of current uncertainty over congressional action relating to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, retaining that law's permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is of significant importance to Montana's Indian tribes, tribal members, and the state of Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That in making any revisions to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, President Trump and the United States Congress be urged to retain the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

(2) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United



1 States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, to each  
2 member of the Montana Congressional Delegation, and to each tribal government located on the seven Montana  
3 reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

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