

# National Indian Health Board



*The Red Feather Of Hope And Healing*

## **Statement by the President on the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act**

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 23, 2010**

**Statement by the President on the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care  
Improvement Act**

Earlier today, I signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the health insurance reform bill passed by Congress. In addition to reducing our deficit, making health care affordable for tens of millions of Americans, and enacting some of the toughest insurance reforms in history, this bill also permanently reauthorizes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which was first approved by Congress in 1976. As a Senator, I co-sponsored this Act back in 2007 because I believe it is unacceptable that Native American communities still face gaping health care disparities. Our responsibility to provide

health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives derives from the nation-to-nation relationship between the federal and tribal governments. And today, with this bill, we have taken a critical step in fulfilling that responsibility by modernizing the Indian health care system and improving access to health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

To read a transcript of the Remarks by the President and Vice President on Health Insurance Reform at the Department of the Interior held on March 23, 2010, please [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to watch the video of the event held at the Department of the Interior where President Obama explains how the reform bill he signed into law earlier in the morning will make a positive impact in the lives of Americans.