

Apr 29: USET SPF Alert: Urge House Members to Sign onto Letter in Support of Tribal 3rd Party Reimbursement Fund

Dear USET SPF Board of Directors and DC Tribal Reps,

In addition to the impacts the COVID-19 emergency is having on Tribal economic concerns, the Indian Health System is also experiencing extreme budgetary shortfalls due, in large part, to a sharp reduction in the provision of services for which third-party payers can be billed. As the federal government continues to fail in its obligation to fully fund the Indian Health System, third-party collections have come to comprise a significant portion of our health facility budgets. As this critical revenue falls in response to the necessary postponement of non-essential services, our health care operations may soon be (or are currently) in jeopardy.

In an effort to address this dangerous shortfall, USET SPF, along with our partners are advocating for the creation of an Emergency Third-Party Reimbursement Relief Fund in the next Congressional stimulus package [see joint letter [here](#)]. This Fund will ensure the Indian Health System, including Tribal health clinics, are able to receive resources to cover the lost third-party revenues that are vital to our operating budgets and continuity of operations.

Supporting this effort, U.S. Representatives Raul Ruiz (D-CA) and Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) are currently circulating a [Congressional sign-on letter](#) [linked] to House Leadership urging that significant resources be allocated to the establishment of an Emergency Third-Party Reimbursement Relief Fund in the next phase of COVID-19 response legislation. Reps. Ruiz and Mullin are seeking additional signatories to this letter, particularly those Members of Congress serving on the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) [roster linked] and the [House Native American Caucus](#) [roster linked]. A large number of signatories showing the strong support of House Members will encourage Leadership to include this provision in the next package and to fight for it during subsequent negotiations between Congressional chambers and the White House.

With this in mind, USET SPF is encouraging its membership to reach out to your Representative(s), as well as those with which you have relationships, to urge that they join this letter. To find your Representative and receive office contact information, please visit the House's ["Find Your Representative" page](#) [LINKED]. Member offices interested in signing on should contact Austin Yager (Austin.yager@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Ruiz or Kaitlynn Skoog (Kaitlynn.skoog@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Mullin. **The deadline to join the letter is COB TOMORROW, April 30th.**

Thank you and as always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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