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Daschle-Dorgan Indian Health Service Funding Amendment Defeated -- Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Byron Dorgan (D-ND) offered an amendment to the budget resolution in the Senate yesterday evening that would have paved the way for increased funding for IHS clinical services by \$3.44 billion above the President's request. Amendment #2774 was defeated on a party-line vote.

After defeat of the Daschle-Dorgan amendment, Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) offered a second amendment increasing funding for IHS by \$282 million, which was approved unanimously. While this represents a welcome nod to increasing critical IHS funding, the amendment provides less than one-tenth of the funding needed to cover essential services for the IHS's current user population. Additionally, the approved amendment does not increase the overall Interior Appropriations Subcommittee allocation to account for the proposed increase, meaning that if the amendment survives conference it will be competing for limited funds against other domestic discretionary programs of concern to tribes such as reservation roads, Indian education, and tribal law enforcement.

For more information on the IHS funding amendment proposed for the budget resolution or the broader budget and appropriations process, please contact NCAI at (202) 466-7767.