

To a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
(Rm.#) (name of Senate Office Building)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

To a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
(Rm.#) (name of) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express my concern -over President Bush's announcement on February 7 of the Administration's intent to completely eliminate the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The fund supports the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Infrastructure in *(fill in your state name)*.

I am a member of, and I serve on the Board of Directors of, the National Native American EMS Association. The Board approved a resolution on this matter last week and I have enclosed a copy of the resolution. I hope you will consider it.

I strongly believe that the PHHS Block Grant should **NOT** be eliminated or cut, and that funding should be provided to the EMS Infrastructure in *(fill in your state name)*. If Federal PHHS Block Grant funding ends, the impact on the State of *(fill in your state name)* would be detrimental; the State would be forced to find and provide funding from within its already limited resources to continue support of the EMS services statewide.

I urge you to argue against the elimination of the PHHS Block Grant. I am sure you will see the logic in this request and will vote to restore the Block Grant. I am confident that you'll **TAKE ACTION NOW** by urging President Bush to take his budget back to the drawing board. America and *(fill in your State name)* needs a responsible budget that meets our EMS priorities.

I hope you consider my request favorably and vote against the elimination of the PHHS Block Grant. If you have any questions or need further information, please call me at (**PHONE NUMBER**) or via email at (**EMAIL ADDRESS**).

For a Better EMS,
[signature]
[Name]
[Title]
[Service]

National Native American Emergency Medical Services Association Resolution 2005-2

Title: Request to the US Congress to Fully Fund Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grants.

WHEREAS, prompt response and definitive care from trained EMS providers working in the field reduces morbidity and mortality among victims of injury.

WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death among Native American people age one to 44, and American Indians and Alaska Natives die at higher rates than other Americans from motor vehicle crashes (203% higher), unintentional injuries (150%), homicide (87%) and suicide (60%).

WHEREAS, the National Native American EMS Association (NNAEMSA) represents the nearly 1,000 EMS providers who work in 80 tribal EMS programs.

WHEREAS, there are 80 tribally operated EMS programs in 25 states, serving over half a million Native American people.

WHEREAS, over 500,000 American Indians living in rural or frontier, areas depend on these programs for EMS.

WHEREAS, a 2001 study determined that in terms of staffing EMS programs are presently funded at less than 50% of their level of need.

WHEREAS, EMS programs must be capable of adequately meeting day-to-day needs for their services before they can develop adequate capacity to respond to incidents resulting from terrorist acts and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

WHEREAS, all EMS providers (Emergency Medical Technicians at Basic, Intermediate, and Paramedic levels) working in tribal EMS programs are certified by the State in which they operate.

WHEREAS, the Administration's proposed 2006 budget eliminates all EMS Block Grants from the Federal Government [DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)] to the states.

WHEREAS, State EMS bureaus will be seriously adversely affected in their licensure, regulatory, and assistance activities if the EMS Block Grants are eliminated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Native American EMS Association requests the Congress of the United States to provide full funding for CDC Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grants.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the semiannual meeting of the Board of Directors **of** the National Native American EMS Association, held at Ak-Chin, Arizona on March 2-3, 2005 with a quorum present.

Bill White

President

ATTEST:

Rachel O'Brien

Acting Executive Director