



CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

For Immediate Release

December 11, 2017

Contact: Jennifer Yniguez, BA, Communications Specialist

(916) 929-9761 ext. 2005, jyniguez@crihb.org

HOUSE-PROPOSED FUNDING OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FUND AT \$130 MILLION

Sacramento, CA – The House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Appropriations Bill funds the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund (IHCIF) at \$130 million to provide equitable resources to Indian Health Service (IHS) Areas. Congressman Ken Calvert, Chairman of the Subcommittee, included this funding to address the shortfalls in the allocations of funding across the IHS system. Congressman Calvert stated in his press release regarding the Appropriations bill, “The funding is particularly important to rural California Tribes.” Additionally, a recent amendment by Congressman O’Halloran of Arizona seeks to add \$47 million for Tribal clinic operational costs.

The California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) policy team and Tribal representatives worked hard on Capitol Hill this year for the House to include funding for the IHCIF in the FY 2018 IHS budget. “Throughout August and September, our policy team engaged in advocacy work in Washington, DC, where we also pushed for the Senate to include an identical \$130 million in the IHCIF in its appropriations legislation. I am pleased with the House-proposed funding, and we will continue our advocacy efforts to gain Senate support for this initiative,” stated Dr. Mark LeBeau, CRIHB CEO.

Lisa Elgin, CRIHB Board Chair, affirmed, “While California Tribes are going into debt millions of dollars to build health care facilities, the IHCIF would provide much needed resources for Tribes and Tribal Health Programs to construct and maintain their facilities.” The IHCIF was established by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in 1976 and is a very small portion of the IHS budget.

###