

Chief's Address to the Nation

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Bureau of Indian Affairs: The Omnibus would provide \$2.531 billion for the BIA and BIE, \$18 million over the FY 2013 enacted level (pre-sequester and across-the-board rescissions). The Omnibus level is \$142 million over the post-sequester and post rescission FY 2013 level. The Omnibus level is the same as the FY 2012 enacted level.

Indian Health Service: The legislation funds the Indian Health Service at \$4.3 billion - \$78 million above the FY 2013 enacted level (pre-sequester and pre-rescission levels).

Health and Human Services: After taking reductions under sequestration, early childhood education initiatives received significant increases in the Omnibus. The bill provides \$8.6 billion for Head Start.

Division G - Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

The House Appropriations press release notes that the "bill helps to meet the nation's treaty obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing funding for health care, law enforcement, and education. The legislation funds the Indian Health Service at \$4.3 billion - \$78 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level - and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Education at \$2.5 billion - \$18 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level."

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Omnibus would provide \$2.5 billion for the BIA and BIE, \$18 million over the FY 2013 enacted level (pre-sequester and before across-the-board rescissions). The Omnibus level is \$142 million over the post-sequester and post-rescission FY

(Dollars in millions)	FY14 Request	FY14 Omnibus	Bill vs. Request	Bill vs. FY13, no sequester	Bill vs. FY13, w/ sequester
Operation of Indian Programs	2,183.8	2,378.8	195.0	11.0	134.9
(Welfare assistance)	74.8	74.8	0.0	0.0	3.9
(Forward-funded education)	596.2	591.2	-5.0	1.8	32.6
Contract support	230.0	--	-230.0	--	--
Indian self-determination fund	1.0	--	-1.0	--	--
Construction					
Education	52.3	55.3	3.0	2.4	2.5
Public safety and justice	11.3	11.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Resources management	32.8	32.8	0.0	0.0	0.1
General administration	10.8	10.8	0.0	1.8	1.8
Total construction	107.1	110.1	3.0	4.2	4.4
Indian guaranteed loan program	5.0	6.7	1.7	-0.4	0
Total BIA and BIE	2,562.6	2,531.3	-31.3	17.7	142.2

2013 level. The Omnibus level is the same as the FY 2012 enacted level.

Contract Support Costs

The Joint Explanatory Statement for Division G includes directions to the Department of Interior (as well as Health and Human Services in the IHS section) on contract support costs.

Contract Support Costs.- The agreement does not include statutory language carried in prior year appropriations bills, which limited the amount available in any given fiscal year for the payment of contract support costs, nor does it include the proposal put forth in the Administration's fiscal year 2014 budget request that would place a cap on the contract support cost amounts available for each tribal contract or compact. That proposal was developed without tribal consultation and the Committees heard from numerous Tribes voicing their strong opposition.

Instead, the question of contract support cost amounts to be paid from within the fiscal year 2014 appropriation is remanded back to the agencies to resolve, while the underlying contradictions in current law remain to be addressed by the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction. Until such matters are resolved, the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are in the untenable position of appropriating discretionary funds for the payment of any legally obligated contract support costs.

Typically obligations of this nature are addressed through mandatory spending, but in this case since they fall under discretionary spending, they have the potential to impact all other programs funded under

the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, including other equally important tribal programs. The Committees therefore direct the Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services to consult with the Tribes and work with the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Committees on Appropriations to formulate long-term accounting, budget, and legislative strategies to address the situation. In the Committees' view, each Department's solution should consider a standardized approach that streamlines the contract negotiation process, provides consistent and clear cost categories, and ensures efficient and timely cost documentation for the Departments and the Tribes. Within 120 days of enactment of this Act, the Departments shall develop work plans and announce consultation with Tribes on this issue.

Indian Health Service

The bill would provide \$4.4 billion for the Indian Health Service (IHS), which is about \$78 million over the FY2013 level (before sequestration and rescissions). The Omnibus IHS level is about \$304 million above the FY 2013 post-sequestration and post-rescission levels. The agreement provides funding for contract support costs in accordance with the Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter Supreme Court decision.

(in millions)	FY13 post sequester	FY14 Request	FY14 Omnibus	Bill vs. Request	Bill vs. FY13 no sequester	Bill vs. FY13 w/ sequester
Indian Health Services	3,712.6	3,505.3	3,982.8	477.5	68.2	270.2
(Purchased/referred care)	801.3	878.6	878.6	0.0	---	77.3
(Loan repayment)	34.1	36.0	36.0	0.0	---	1.9
Contract support	---	477.2	---	---	---	---
Maintenance and improvement	50.9	53.7	53.6	-0.1	---	2.7
Sanitation facilities construction	75.4	79.6	79.4	-159.0	---	4.0
Health care facilities construction	77.2	85.0	85.0	0.0	---	7.8
Facilities and environmental health support	193.6	207.2	211.1	3.8	---	17.5
Equipment	21.4	22.6	22.5	-45.0	---	1.1
total facilities	41.9	448.1	451.7	3.5	---	409.8
TOTAL, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE	4,130.8	4,430.6	4,434.5	3,878.0	78.3	303.7

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(Purchased/referred care)	801.3	878.6	878.6	0.0	---	77.3
(Loan repayment)	34.1	36.0	36.0	0.0	---	1.9
Contract support	---	477.2	---	---	---	---
Maintenance and improvement	50.9	53.7	53.6	-0.1	---	2.7
Sanitation facilities construction	75.4	79.6	79.4	-159.0	---	4.0
Health care facilities construction	77.2	85.0	85.0	0.0	---	7.8
Facilities and environmental health support	193.6	207.2	211.1	3.8	---	17.5
Equipment	21.4	22.6	22.5	-45.0	---	1.1
total facilities	41.9	448.1	451.7	3.5	---	409.8
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The Joint Explanatory text for IHS refers to the contract support costs discussion under "Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Operation of Indian Programs." Moreover, the IHS is directed to submit an operating plan to the Committees within 30 days of enactment of this Act displaying funding allocations to the activity level.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all tribal members a "Happy Birthday!" that celebrated one during the month of January and those who will be celebrating theirs in February. Once again, I thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve as Chief of our Sac and Fox Nation. Aho! George Thurman, Principal Chief

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