



Joint Statement Opposing Governor Newsom's Decision to Eliminate State Indian Health Program in May Revise

Sacramento, CA - May 16, 2024

The California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) and the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH) jointly express deep concern and staunch opposition to Governor Newsom's recent announcement in the May Revise to eliminate the State Indian Health Program.

The last time the State Indian Health Program was eliminated was under Governor Schwarzenegger in 2009. This crucial program was fully restored at \$23 million a year in ongoing funding in 2023 and has once again been instrumental in providing essential healthcare services and addressing the unique needs of American Indian communities across the state.\$I

“The elimination of the State Indian Health Program would undoubtedly have devastating effects on the health and well-being of our Native American community members,” said Arch Super, CRIHB Board Chair. “We respectfully request that our state lawmakers protect and maintain this program in the spending plan that they are working on.”

In 2021, the life expectancy for American Indians was just 65 years – a stark contrast to that of the other major groups (Asian, non-Hispanic population with 83.5 years; Hispanic with 77.7 years; white-non Hispanic with 76.4 years; Black, non-Hispanic with 70.8 years).¹

"The decision to eliminate the State Indian Health Program is deeply disappointing," said Sonya Tetnowski, President of CCUIH and CEO of the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley. "We urge the Governor to reconsider this detrimental cut and instead work towards strengthening healthcare services for all Californians, including our community."

CRIHB and CCUIH urge Governor Newsom to reconsider this detrimental decision and to work collaboratively with state lawmakers to maintain the program.

For more information or to show your support, please contact: Ayanna Roberts, aroberts@crihb.org and Nanette Star, nanette@ccuih.org.

Source: 1

<https://www.statista.com/chart/30991/average-life-expectancy-in-the-united-states-by-racial-and-ethnic-groups/>