

**TOM COLE**  
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

December 5, 2016

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 2467 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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- 2424 SPRINGER DRIVE  
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- 711 SW D AVENUE  
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LAWTON, OK 73501  
(580) 357-2131
- SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING  
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213  
ADA, OK 74820  
(580) 436-5375

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

I would like to highlight an important provision of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) which provides for the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA). I am an advocate for the repeal and replacement of the PPACA, and also believe the non-controversial reauthorization should remain in statute.

Section 10221 of PPACA permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA), which has been the cornerstone legal authority for provision of health care to American Indians and Alaskan Natives. This section is not controversial. IHCA authorizes many programs and services provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS), it sets out the national policy for health services administered to Indians, and it states the federal goal to ensure the highest possible health status for Indians, including urban Indians. In addition, it authorizes direct collections from Medicare, Medicaid, and other third-party insurers. These provisions are critical to Indian Country and should be maintained through any PPACA repeal legislation.

I look forward to working with you and your staff on maintaining these provisions which are so critical to American Indians and Alaskan Natives across the country as we work to repeal and replace PPACA with policies which will encourage competition, lower prices, and provide better healthcare for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cole".

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress