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[COMMITTEE PRINT]

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Calendar No. 000

110TH CONGRESS } 1st Session }	SENATE	{ REPORT 110-000
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

JUNE 00, 2007.—Ordered to be printed

Mrs. FEINSTEIN, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 0000]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. _____) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Total obligational authority, fiscal year 2008

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$27,186,125,000
Amount of 2007 appropriations (including emergency appropriations)	26,952,127,000
Amount of 2008 budget estimate	25,640,503,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2007 appropriations (including emergency appropriations)	+ 233,998,000
2008 budget estimate	+ 1,545,622,000

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Indian Health Service [IHS] is the agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that has responsibility for providing Federal health services to approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The provision of health services to members of federally recognized tribes grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. This relationship, established in 1787, is based on Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, and has been given form and substance by numerous treaties, laws, Supreme Court decisions, and Executive Orders.

IHS services are provided directly and through tribally contracted and operated health programs in over 500 health care facilities located through the United States, primarily in rural and isolated areas. Health care is also purchased from more than 9,000 private providers annually. The Federal system consists of 36 hospitals, 61 health centers, 49 health stations, and 5 residential treatment centers. In addition, 34 urban Indian health projects provide a variety of health and referral services.

The IHS clinical staff consist of approximately 2,700 nurses, 900 physicians, 350 engineers, 450 pharmacists, 300 dentists, 150 sanitarians and 83 physician assistants. The IHS also employs various allied health professionals, such as nutritionists, health administrators, engineers, and medical records administrators.

Through Public Law 93-638 self-determination contracts, American Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations administer 13 hospitals, 158 health centers, 28 residential treatment centers, 76 health stations, and 170 Alaska village clinics.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Appropriations, 2007	\$2,826,282,000
Budget estimate, 2008	2,931,530,000
Committee recommendation	2,991,924,000

The Committee recommends \$2,991,924,000 for Indian health services, an increase of \$165,642,000 above the fiscal year 2007 enacted level and \$60,394,000 above the fiscal year 2008 budget request. Increases above the request include \$10,000,000 for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund; \$5,000,000 for expansion of two of the Director's behavioral health initiatives; \$300,000 for the Indian Health Board of Nevada (Reid); \$10,000,000 for Contract Health Care; and \$35,094,000 to restore the Urban Indian Health program.

The additional funds provided for the Director's behavioral health initiatives include \$2,500,000 for methamphetamine abuse reduction and \$2,500,000 for suicide prevention. The Committee understands that telehealth technology will be used to support coordination of the national effort with particular attention paid to remote or isolated communities that would otherwise have difficulty obtaining services. The increase in Contract Health Care is provided specifically for the Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund [CHEF] to raise the current level of funding from \$18,000,000 to

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\$28,000,000. The \$300,000 increase for the Indian Health Board of Nevada is intended to help the organization with its start-up costs of operation. The Committee understand that the InMed, RAIN, and InPsych programs will continue to be funded at no less than the current levels and managed in the same manner as prior years (Dorgan, Conrad).

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2007	\$353,926,000
Budget estimate, 2008	339,196,000
Committee recommendation	375,475,000

The Committee recommends \$375,475,000 for Indian health facilities, an increase of \$21,549,000 above the current year enacted level and \$36,279,000 above the budget request. An amount of \$20,000,000 above the \$12,664,000 budget proposal has been included for construction of the Barrow, Alaska hospital (Stevens). The total cost of this facility is more than \$140,000,000 and the funding level recommended by the Committee is the minimum required in order for the Service to proceed with its work. Other increases include \$7,931,000 in fixed costs that were omitted from the budget request, \$1,000,000 to expand injury prevention efforts, and \$7,348,000 to restore base programs.