

Tribal Technical Advisory Group

To the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

c/o National Indian Health Board 926 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003 (202) 507-4070 (202) 507-4071 fax

February 25, 2009

Ms. Charlene Frizzera
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Issuance of a State Medicaid Director Letter Directing the Acceptance of Tribal Documents to Prove U.S. Citizenship for Purposes of Eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP

Dear Acting Administrator Frizzera:

On behalf of the Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG), I write to request that you issue a letter to State Medicaid Directors regarding the recently-enacted revision to Sec. 1903(x) of the Social Security Act directing acceptance of tribal documents to prove U.S. citizenship for purposes of eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP.

Specifically, we ask you to advise State Medicaid Directors that Sec. 211(b)(1) of the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2009 (Pub.L. 111-03), provides that "a document issued by a federally-recognized Indian tribe evidencing membership or enrollment in, or affiliation with, such tribe" shall be an acceptable form of proof of U.S. citizenship. This revision to the law is applicable as if it were enacted with the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

The TTAG believes it is critical that CMS advise State Medicaid Directors of this change in the law and of their responsibility to immediately implement it with regard to the citizenship documentation required for enrollment or renewal applications for participation in Medicaid and CHIP.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Valerie Davidson
Chairman