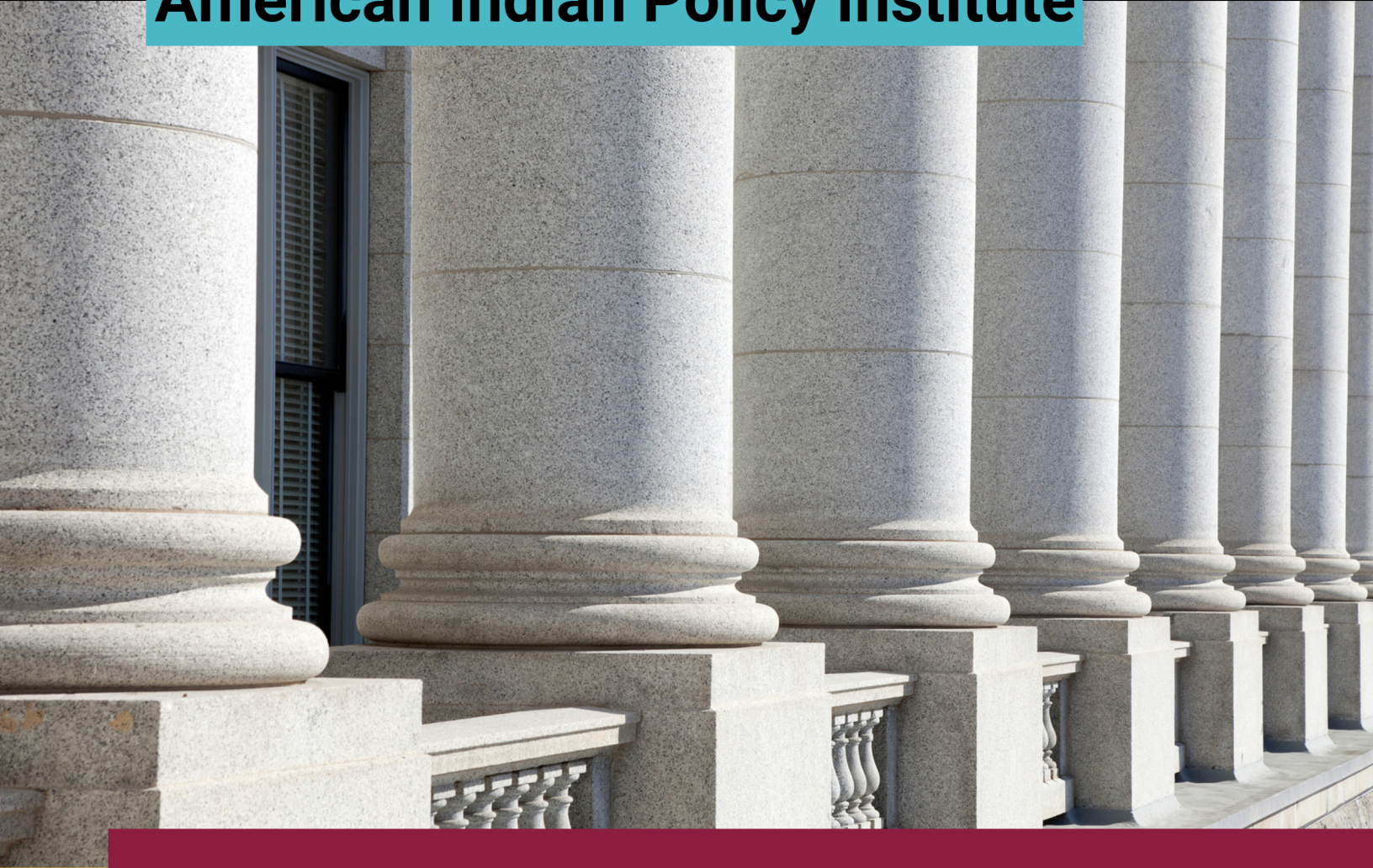


Legislative

Updates Q3 2024

American Indian Policy Institute



ASU American Indian
Policy Institute
Arizona State University

SUMMARY

Welcome to the Quarterly AIPI Legislative Update for the third quarter of 2024. This edition covers information available through federal and state government websites from 7/1/24 to 9/30/24. In Q3, AIPI reviewed 127 bills in Congress and 323 Federal Register Notices. This update includes several bills to impact Tribal communities, focusing on critical areas such as healthcare, education, water resources, and child welfare. Several of these bills aim to enhance opportunities for Indigenous communities through grants for benefit programs, infrastructure, technical assistance, and more. A significant portion of Federal Register notices continues to focus on NAGPRA. Beyond these, significant final rules include updates to Alaska subsistence regulations, delegation of Clean Air Act authority to the Southern Ute Tribe, expanded Tribal sponsorship for watershed projects, and initiatives supporting cybersecurity in schools and research infrastructure at Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Our monthly update consists of publicly available information from government websites and databases. AIPI's policy update focuses on federal legislation, congressional hearings, and federal register notices affecting Tribal Nations. The policy update also highlights actions from the Arizona State Legislature and Governor when available. If you are viewing this digitally, links are embedded throughout the document, allowing you to view more information on any given item. AIPI strives to provide you with as much information as possible in the Legislative Update. However, some information may not be included due to the large amount of government activity every quarter. We also aim to share information on significant policy actions that may be more timely than our quarterly updates through our blog and social media. Please continue to follow AIPI for the latest updates.

HEARINGS

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

SENATE COMMITTEES

- 7/10/21 - [Legislative Hearing to receive testimony on S. 2783, S. 3406, S. 3857 & S. 4365](#)
- 7/25/24 - [Business Meeting to consider S. 2783, S. 3406, S. 4000, S. 4365 and Legislative Hearing to receive testimony on S. 4370 & S. 4505](#)
- 9/18/24 - [Nomination Hearing to consider Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission and Business meeting to consider S. 2695, S. 3857, S. 4442 & S. 4505](#)
- 9/25/24 - [Legislative Hearing to receive testimony on S. 4444, S. 4633, S. 4643, S. 4705, S. 4998 and Business Meeting to consider S. 465, S. 2908, S. 4370](#)

HOUSE COMMITTEES

- 7/23/24 - [Investigating how the Biden Administration Ignored Cries for Help from Students at Haskell Indian Nations University | Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee](#)
- 7/23/24 - [Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1304, H.R. 3977, H.R. 6599, H.R. 7240, H.R. 8685, H.R. 8791, H.R. 8920, H.R. 8940, H.R. 8945, H.R. 8949, H.R. 8951 & H.R. 8953 | Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee](#)
- 7/24/24 - [Legislative Hearing on H.R. 6489, H.R. 8942, H.R. 8955 & H.R. 8956 | Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee](#)
- 9/10/24 - [Examining the Implementation of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 | Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee](#)
- 9/10/24 - [Legislative Hearing on H.R. 6352, H.R. 8413, H.R. 8632 & H.R. 8836 | Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee](#)
- 9/18/24 - [Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1479, H.R. 1504, H.R. 8931, H.R. 8946, H.R. 9159, H.R. 9492, H.R. 9516 & S. 612 | Federal Lands Subcommittee](#)

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

- **H.R. 8488 - [Farmer to Farmer Education Act of 2024](#)** - This bill would support farmers, ranchers, and forest owners by funding networks for shared knowledge, mentorship, and tailored technical assistance. It prioritizes underserved communities, including Tribes, to promote sustainable agricultural practices and long-term growth. Sponsored by Rep. Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-02).

- **H.R. 8921 - [Tribal Child Welfare Support Act](#)** - This bill would ensure funding is set aside specifically for Indian Tribes and Tribal consortia to support child welfare services. The bill would require the federal government to reserve a percentage of certain Social Security Act funds for direct payments to Tribes and Tribal organizations. This funding aims to strengthen Tribal child welfare systems, providing resources directly to Tribes for the care and protection of Native children and families. Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK-1).
- **H.R. 8966 - [Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2024](#)** - This bill would improve healthcare for Tribal communities by addressing critical issues in the Indian Health Service (IHS). The bill introduces measures to enhance recruitment and retention of healthcare workers, ensure better accountability, and improve the quality of care. It also establishes mechanisms to hold employees accountable, protect whistleblowers, and improve oversight of healthcare facilities. Sponsored by Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD-At Large)
- **H.R. 9506 - [Water Project Navigators Act](#)** - This bill would establish a program to support the development of multi-benefit water projects that address water shortages, improve water use efficiency, and enhance ecosystems. Eligible entities, including Tribal governments, can receive grants to fund "water project navigator" positions to assist with planning, grant writing, technical support, and project management. Priority is given to projects benefiting Tribes, disadvantaged communities, and areas experiencing severe drought. The program promotes collaboration across governments and stakeholders and can reduce or waive cost-sharing requirements for Tribal entities. Sponsored by Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO-7)
- **S. 1723 - [Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2023](#)** - This bill establishes the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States and sets forth its powers, duties, and membership. Among other duties, the commission must investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policies (federal policies under which American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in boarding schools). Further, the commission must develop recommendations on ways to (1) protect unmarked graves and accompanying land protections; (2) support repatriation and identify the tribal nations from which children were taken; and (3) discontinue the removal of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children from their families and tribal communities by state social service departments, foster care agencies, and adoption agencies. Sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
- **S. 4869 - [Indian Health Service Emergency Claims Parity Act](#)** - This bill would update the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to simplify emergency care coverage for Tribal members. The bill will extend the notification period for emergency medical care from non-IHS providers to 15 days, ensuring that elderly or disabled Tribal members and others have more time to report emergency treatments for payment eligibility. This

change helps improve access to emergency healthcare without unnecessary delays or barriers. Sponsored by Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)

- **S. 5185 - [Funding Community College Infrastructure Act](#)** - This bill would establish a grant program to support the creation, expansion, and improvement of community colleges in underserved areas, including Tribal Colleges and Universities. Grants can be used for constructing or upgrading facilities, providing equipment, improving broadband access, supporting transportation, and offering childcare or affordable housing for students and staff. The program prioritizes projects serving low-income and rural communities and encourages partnerships with Tribal governments, high schools, and universities to enhance educational opportunities for Native students. Sponsored by Sen. Robert P. Casey (D-PA)

FEDERAL LEGISLATION BREAKDOWN

Agriculture	Appropriations	Benefits Programs	Broadband & Technology	Budget	Children & Families
H.R. 8640 H.R. 9887 H.R. 8488	H.R. 9028 H.R. 8997 H.R. 9029 H.R. 8921 H.R. 9026 H.R. 9554 S. 4796 S. 4795 S. 4927 S. 4942 S. 4776	H.R. 8513	H.R. 3565 H.R. 9403	H.R. 8580	H.R. 9076 S. 4880 S. 1146
Education	Environment	Gaming	Government	Grants	Healthcare
H.R. 8981 H.R. 9131 S. 5162 S. 1723 S. 5240	H.R. 6765 H.R. 7408 H.R. 9506 H.R. 8836 H.R. 9776 H.R. 9786 S. 4370 S. 2908 S. 4953	H.R. 9590 S. 5057	H.R. 7906 H.Res. 1487 H.Res. 1499 H.Res. 1422 S. 4842 S.Res. 857 S.Res. 851 S.Res. 845	H.R. 6891 H.R. 8973 H.R. 8998 H.R. 9027 H.R. 9068 H.R. 7146 H.R. 7444 S. 5146 S. 4886	H.R. 8966 H.R. 9622 H.R. 8956 H.R. 8955 S. 4869 S. 4811 S. 2645 S. 5236

	S. 4963 S. 2781 S. 4995 S. 5115 S. 5258			S. 4802 S. 4690 S. 5185 S. 4843		
Housing		Labor	Land	Nat'l Parks & Monuments	Public Safety	Tax
H.R. 6785	H.R. 8942 S. 4950	H.R. 6489 H.R. 5537 H.R. 2405 S. 1776 S. 2783	H.R. 9257 S. 5001 S. 4828 S. 2088	H.R. 9120 H.R. 9310 H.R. 9750 H.R. 9842 S. 465 S. 4365 S. 2695 S. 4752 S. 3788 S. 5285	S. 5187	
Tribe-Specific		Veterans	Water	Water Rights		
H.R. 1240 H.R. 7240 H.R. 8562 H.R. 1304 H.R. 3977 H.R. 8685 H.R. 8791 H.R. 8920 H.R. 8940 H.R. 8945 H.R. 8951 H.R. 8953 H.R. 9630 H.R. 9372 H.R. 9630 S. 3857 S. 4000 S. 4442	(cont.) S. 1889 S. 4633 S. 4705 S. 2796 S. 4505 S. 4643 S. 4998 S. 2868 S. 4848 S. 1890 S. 5193 S. 5227 S. 5287	S. 4650	H.R. 8812	H.R. 6599 S. 3406		

FEDERAL REGISTER BREAKDOWN

Agriculture	ANSCA	Benefits Programs	Boards & Commissions	Broadband & Technology	Consultation
1	4	13	11	1	5
Economic Development	Education	Emergency Management	Energy	Funding	Gaming
1	7	2	2	2	6
Government	Healthcare	Housing	ICWA	Infrastructure	Land
22	8	5	1	2	2
NAGPRA	Natural Resources	Public Safety	Transportation	Tribe Specific	Veterans
183	1	1	4	35	1
Water Rights					
3					

TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES THIS QUARTER: 323

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE SUMMARIES

NOTICE	Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska-2024-25 and 2025-26 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations
SUMMARY	This final rule sets subsistence hunting and trapping seasons, harvest limits, and methods for Alaska’s 2024-25 and 2025-26 regulatory years. The Federal Subsistence Board updates these regulations every two years, with public input gathered beforehand. It also revises customary and traditional use determinations, general regulations and addresses a delayed proposal from the last fishing cycle.

NOTICE	Medicare and Medicaid Programs and the Children's Health Insurance Program: Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System
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<p>SUMMARY</p>	<p>and Policy Changes and Fiscal Year 2025 Rates: Quality Programs Requirements; and Other Policy Changes</p> <p>This final rule updates how Medicare pays hospitals for inpatient services, including operating and building costs for acute care hospitals. It also adjusts payments for teaching hospitals to support medical education and updates payment rates for long-term care hospitals. Additionally, it makes other important policy changes related to Medicare payments.</p>
<p>NOTICE</p> <p>SUMMARY</p>	<p>Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming</p> <p>This final rule updates the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) to support the workforce and improve services for children and families. Key changes include setting requirements for staff wages and benefits, providing breaks, and supporting staff health and wellness. It also strengthens mental health services to integrate them throughout program delivery. Additional updates focus on family worker assignments, meeting community needs, ensuring child safety, services for pregnant women, and better alignment with state early childhood systems. Minor clarifications were also made to improve transparency and understanding for grant recipients.</p>
<p>NOTICE</p> <p>SUMMARY</p>	<p>Announcement of the Delegation of Partial Administrative Authority for the Southern Ute Indian Reservation to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for Implementation of the Clean Air Act Federal Minor New Source Review Program in Indian Country and the Indian Country Minor Source Oil and Gas Federal Implementation Plan</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on June 11, 2024, EPA Region 8 and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) agreed to share responsibility for managing certain air quality programs under the Clean Air Act within the SUIT Reservation. This agreement allows the Tribe to help the EPA oversee two programs: one that reviews minor new sources of air pollution in Indian Country and another that manages air emissions from small oil and gas operations. This partnership is now officially included in federal regulations.</p>
<p>NOTICE</p>	<p>Tribe or Tribal Organization Sponsor Option for Watershed Projects</p>

SUMMARY	The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is updating its rules to allow Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to sponsor watershed projects. Previously, sponsors needed the power of eminent domain, which Tribes generally have over their land, but Alaska Native Corporations and some Tribal organizations do not. This rule change provides an option to better allow federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Tribal organizations to sponsor and lead important watershed projects.
NOTICE	Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program
SUMMARY	The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has created the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program to help schools and libraries protect their broadband networks and data. This program will test how using funds from the Universal Service Fund (USF) to pay for cybersecurity services and equipment can improve network security. It also aims to understand how offering this support would affect the USF, while addressing the growing cybersecurity needs of schools and libraries.
NOTICE	Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program
SUMMARY	This final rule updates the Tribal Transportation Program Bridge Program, now called the Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program (TTFBP), to align with recent federal laws like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). It also replaces outdated terms like "structurally deficient" and "functionally obsolete" with terminology used by state transportation departments to describe bridge conditions. These changes create consistency in how bridge conditions are classified and referred to across programs.
NOTICE	Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves
SUMMARY	The National Park Service amends its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska to prohibit bear baiting and clarify trapping regulations.
NOTICE	Research and Development Infrastructure Grant

SUMMARY

The Department of Education has set priorities, requirements, and definitions for the Research and Development Infrastructure (RDI) grant program. These guidelines will be used for grant competitions in 2024 and beyond. The goal is to help Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) make major improvements in their research capabilities. This includes boosting research output, building faculty expertise, expanding graduate programs, improving facilities, developing human resources, and creating partnerships to secure more external funding.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FIND US ONLINE

For more go to
aipi.asu.edu



Connect with our accounts
@aipinstitute

Authored By:

Brooke Curleyhair,
Research Analyst

Design By:

Kennedy Satterfield,
Graduate Assistant



American
Indian Policy
Institute

Arizona State
University

American Indian Policy Institute

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Beaus Center for Law and Society
111 E. Taylor St. Phoenix, AZ 85004
aipi.asu.edu