

Indian Health Care Funds Released

Alaska Senator Ted Stevens today praised the Nixon Administration for taking swift action in releasing nearly \$2 million in additional Indian health care funds.

"Rising medical costs have resulted in the necessity of these funds to continue the Indian Health Service Program at its present level," said Senator Stevens. "These federal funds will assist in abating a shortage of staff, equipment and drugs."

Senator Stevens said that the President had ordered the release of \$957,000 of the original appropriation and \$1 million for contract medical services, part of a supplemental appropriation which was being held in reserve by the Bureau of the Budget.

Stevens was an original co-sponsor of a bill to make these funds available. The Alaska Republican Senator also joined with a bi-partisan group of 91 Senators and Congressmen on January 23, 1970 in urging President Nixon to release the funds.