

Bill seeks \$14.37 million for IHS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee last week approved a Fiscal Year 1990 spending bill with \$14.37 million for Indian Health Service projects in Alaska requested by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

For IHS, the legislation calls for \$1.141 million for immunizations against meningitis and Hepatitis B.

"This immunization program is aimed at a type of meningitis that in-

Panel OKs \$15.3 million for Aleuts

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fects Yupik Eskimo children at a rate 15 times that of other youth," Stevens said. "These young Alaskans have the highest incidence of this meningitis in the world."

Also, the subcommittee called for \$7 million for the Community Health Aide Program, which would bring the

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• IHS funds

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program's total funding level for Fiscal Year 1990 to \$19.1 million.

"These aides provide the only medical care available in many villages," Stevens said. "They perform life-saving emergency procedures as well as treat less threatening illnesses that might not require care in a far-away clinic."

The health aide program is the only primary care available to more than 40,000 Alaska Natives.

Additional IHS funds would be used to operate a residential alcohol/drug treatment center for pregnant Native women, design a new IHS hospital in Kotzebue, purchase a site and design personnel quarters for IHS workers in Kotzebue and build a water and sewer system in the community.

The bill would earmark \$526,000 for the residential alcohol/drug treatment center, \$3.15 million to design the Kotzebue IHS hospital, \$1.27 million for site purchase and design of the personnel quarters and \$1.25 million for the Kotzebue water and sewer treatment system.