

## What does health care reform mean for **INDIAN COUNTRY?**

**The health care reform law permanently reauthorized the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act*, which expired in 2000.**

- Modernizes delivery of health services in Indian Country
- Fulfills the government's trust responsibility to provide adequate health care
- Improves access to quality care for all American Indians in Montana
- Reduces health disparities
- Expands third party funding so that IHS money can go further

**Health care is strengthened across the board.**

- Simplified enrollment in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program for American Indians
- Expanded mental health and substance abuse care
- Increased recruitment and retention of health providers
- Improved collaboration between IHS, VA, and other providers

**Better access to coverage.**

- American Indians will be able to choose their own providers, including tribal health providers and the Indian Health Service
- Lower premiums and out of pocket costs for many.
- Federal Employees Health Benefits program for tribal employees

## **Sen. Tester has focused on Improving Indian Healthcare**

- ***Consistently supported the Special Diabetes Program.***  
In Indian Country, SDPI funding has significantly increased the availability of diabetes prevention and treatment services. The increase has translated to remarkable improvements in diabetes care and quality of life.
- ***Improved coordination in resolving payer of last resort issues.***  
Rather than have the Veteran's Administration send patients to the Indian Health Service, and vice versa, Senator Tester encouraged them to craft a memorandum of understanding to make sure doctors focus on patients, not on who's paying.
- ***Making sure Washington understands Montana***
  - Field hearing on improving Indian health care on 8-15-2007
  - Field hearing on reducing youth suicide on 8-9-2011