

Update #52

The views, opinions and commentary in this update are those of Congressman Red Corn. They are his alone, and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Osage Nation Congress.

Election law passed out of Committee

ONCA 08-27, the Election Law, has been passed out of Committee with a “do pass” recommendation on a unanimous vote. The bill will now go the General Order for floor amendments and final vote, probably next Tuesday.

Health Benefit package, Appropriation bill passed out of Committee

ONCA 08-46, the Health Benefit Act, and ONCA 08-47, the associated appropriation bill, have been reported out with a “do pass” recommendation of the Health and Social Services Committee. The bill would establish a universal benefit for members of the Osage Nation of \$500/year in the form of a debit card that can be used for a wide variety of health-related expenses. If passed, the benefit could be available as soon as January.

It is expected the appropriations bill (ONCA 08-47) will go to the Appropriations Committee before returning to the floor. The initial funding request is for \$5,000,000.

Tune in tomorrow for consideration of the Ethics bill

The Ethics bill, ONCA 08-33, sponsored by Congresswoman Edwards and co-sponsored by Congresspersons Freeman, Atterberry and I will be taken up by the Government Operations committee tomorrow at 1 p.m. The bill has been through one amendment session and was retained by the committee on a tie vote that failed to send it to the floor. The bill has been introduced since May 22nd of this year.

The Ethics bill, the Election law and the Merit System bill are the last three major pieces of legislation required by the Constitution.

As always, please call or email with your questions, comments, or concerns.

With respect,

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