

Update #60

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.

Health Benefit funding bill still not moving

The Osage Congress has been called back into session to process legislation left over from the just-completed fall session. Among the legislation “on the call” is ONCA 08-47, which contains an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to fund the recently passed Health Benefit act.

The funding bill is now in the possession of the Appropriations Committee, which considered the bill but did not pass it out of committee. No meetings of the Appropriations Committee have been called as of this writing. [If the Appropriations Committee does not schedule a meeting to again consider the bill, the Health Benefit will remain unfunded unless the Speaker extracts the bill or the Congress “discharges” the bill from the Appropriations Committee and back onto the floor.](#)

Members of the Appropriations Committee are:

Congresswoman Faren Anderson, Chair
Congresswoman Jerri Jean Branstetter
Congressman William “Kugee” Supernaw
Congressman Eddy Red Eagle
Congresswoman Debra Atterberry

Congresspersons Red Eagle and Atterberry were the only ones voting to pass the bill out of the Appropriations Committee the last time they met.

Attached please find the latest letter from the Health and Wellness Advisory Board supporting the recently passed bill and the appropriation to fund the benefit.

If you wish to make your opinion known to the Congress, you may email your thoughts to llazelle@osagetribe.org and ask that your email be distributed to the Congress.

With respect,

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