



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 30, 2003

S. 555

Native American Health and Wellness Foundation Act of 2003

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 14, 2003

S. 555 would establish the Native American Health and Wellness Foundation, a charitable and nonprofit corporation to support the mission of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The foundation would assist federal, state, tribal, and other entities in efforts to further health and wellness activities and opportunities for Native Americans.

Funding for the foundation would be provided through a transfer of any donated funds currently held by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as well as other donations solicited and received by the foundation itself. (Donations to HHS are recorded in the federal budget as revenues.) The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$500,000 annually for the foundation's administrative expenses. This amount would be adjusted in later years for inflation. S. 555 would also allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide reimbursable administrative and financial support to the foundation during the first five years of its operation.

Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized, CBO estimates that implementing S. 555 would cost about \$400,000 in 2004 and \$3 million over the 2004-2008 period. Any additional assistance provided by HHS, which would probably be less than \$500,000 annually, must be fully reimbursed by the foundation and would have no net impact on discretionary spending. The transfer of donated funds from HHS to the foundation would increase direct spending. Based on information from IHS, CBO estimates that these donations total less than \$500,000 annually. S. 555 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Eric Rollins. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.