



## The 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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### **NNC Delegate Edmund Yazzie Seeks Funds for GIMC Replacement**

*Drafts resolution to keep project an IHS priority*

**Thoreau, NM** — Navajo Nation Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) has been working to identify funding for replacing the Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC). Although the Chairperson for the Law and Order Subcommittee, Yazzie, who in the 21<sup>st</sup> Council helped establish the clinic in Thoreau, is working to introduce legislation to the Council asking the Indian Health Service (IHS) to make the aging 1950's facility a priority.

"For many on the Navajo and Zuni Nations, the Gallup Indian Medical Center is the only major hospital option in this region," said Delegate Edmund Yazzie. "Besides providing daily healthcare services to keep our people healthy, we must make sure the best critical care is available when needed."

"By introducing a resolution to the Council we can make sure this project stays as a priority for IHS as healthcare construction dollars become available."

Estimates place the cost of rebuilding the center at more than \$500 million dollars, an amount that is rising annually. Currently there are efforts by New Mexico lawmakers to secure funding for an initial design phase. Additional funds would be needed for purchasing land, as the center would likely be relocated, and construction.

According to IHS, the Gallup Indian Medical Center is a 99-bed hospital located in Gallup, New Mexico. Clinical specialties at GIMC include Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Anesthesia, OB/GYN, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, ENT, Radiology, Pathology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine, and Urology. The workload at GIMC is one of the largest in the IHS with 250,000 outpatient encounters and 5,800 inpatient admissions annually.

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