

## **Approval of FY 09 Continuing Resolution**

11.24.2008

The National Board of the Johnson-O'Malley Association (JOM), announced that Fiscal Year 2009 funds covering JOM programs for the academic school year 2008-2009 will begin to be distributed within the immediate future to Tribes, schools, school districts and local parent Committees. This funding comes from the Continuing Resolution (now Public Law 110-329). The announcement comes as the National JOM Association, the major representative for all JOM programs, was conducting its Annual Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Johnson -O'Malley Board President, Ms. Virginia Thomas, expressed relief and pleasure at the news. She said, "For five years, the current Administration has stuck to a disastrous policy of proposing cuts or elimination for the Johnson-O'Malley program. Thanks to the overwhelming support for the program, and its long track record, and our supporters in Tribes, the Congress has continued to legislate funds for the program.

However, the Bureau of Indian Education of the Interior Department, put out bad information, saying no funds would be forthcoming for FY 09, saying there were no funds for the program in language in the CR or Administration opposition. They were wrong, but many program people were confused and concerned. We are here to say "DON'T WORRY - the funds are coming."

Johnson-O'Malley created in 1934, is the oldest Federal program meeting the unique and specialized needs of Indian students both scholastic and non-scholastic. It is the only Federal program with true local control. In JOM, local parent committees are vested with the authority to plan, implement, and evaluate the JOM program and determine needs and remedies, and while small, this flexibility is key to the program's success.

The PL 110-329, the CR for 09, only covers the period of Oct 1, 2008, and will be followed by a Second CR for the rest of the year. Therefore this initial payment/distribution will be for about 43% of funding to be ultimately received by each Tribe or program, with the rest coming in the spring. The JOM Board, Tribal Officials, our constituents and our Congressional friends hope the new Administration will continue to work on this vital program.

In Closing President Thomas said, "On Behalf of the Board and our Membership, we want to thank all our friends in Tribes, in schools, our parents, teachers and students, and especially our friends in Congress for the support. By working together the continuation of the JOM success story has been assured. We need your continued support to make the program grow and flourish and we look forward to working with all of you in the future."