



SOUTHERN INDIAN HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.

4058 Willows Road Alpine, CA 91901

Mailing: P.O. Box 2128 Alpine, CA 91903

Phone: (619) 445-1188

**BIO OF LAURA L. QUAHA,
Enrolled Member of the Campo Band of Mission Indians,
Southern Indian Health Council, Inc.,
Testifying to the
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

March 25, 2015

Testimony on behalf of Southern Indian Health Council, Inc.

Southern Indian Health Council regrets that it's invited speaker, Chairman Leroy Elliott, Chairman of SIHC, Inc. and of the Manzanita Band of Mission Indians, passed away on March 18, 2015 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. The Health Council and Tribal Community have lost a great leader and appreciate the subcommittee's accommodation of our substitute testimony due to this unfortunate loss.

Speaker: Laura L. Quaha

Laura Quaha is an enrolled Tribal member of the Campo Band of Mission Indians. She currently works at Southern Indian Health Council, Inc. (SIHC) as the Executive Secretary to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operations Officer. She has been with SIHC for over one year. Ms. Quaha holds other roles within her tribe and currently is Campo's Gaming Commissioner, she was an assistant to the Tribal Chairman for over three years, she worked at the Campo Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Water Technician, and worked as the Youth Coordinator for the Campo Education Center, as well as many other official and unofficial roles. Ms. Quaha has several years of healthcare experience, both as an advocate for Native American quality of care and direct care as a respiratory therapist.

Ms. Quaha went to Butte College where she received her Associates of Science and a certificate from Concord College in Respiratory Therapy. She also holds a Level 1 Water Treatment license for the State of California. She continues to be active in various roles in the Native American community, especially within her own Tribe. Ms. Quaha is a mother to three children who are all eligible for Tribal enrollment. Ms. Quaha is passionate about quality and coordinated healthcare services for the Native American community. She has personal experiences which attest to the need for the quality of healthcare and general sustainable funding to the prosperity of culture, tradition, and values for the Kumeyaay Nation.