

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 741  
OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Stronger Engagement  
3 for Indian Health Needs Act of 2025”.

**4 SEC. 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN HEALTH.**

5       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 601(a) of the Indian  
6 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(a)) is  
7 amended—

8           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “tribes” and  
9       inserting “Tribes”;

10          (2) in paragraph (2)—

11           (A) by striking “a Director” and inserting  
12       “an Assistant Secretary for Indian Health (in  
13       this section referred to as the ‘Assistant Sec-  
14       retary’)”;

15           (B) by striking “The Director shall report”  
16       and inserting “The Assistant Secretary shall re-  
17       port directly”;

1 (C) by striking “the Director” and insert-  
2 ing “the Assistant Secretary”; and

3 (D) by striking “A Director” and inserting  
4 “An Assistant Secretary”;

5 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “date of en-  
6 actment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Re-  
7 authorization and Extension Act of 2009 shall serve  
8 as Director” and inserting “date of enactment of the  
9 Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act  
10 of 2025 shall serve as Assistant Secretary”;

11 (4) in paragraph (4), in the matter before sub-  
12 paragraph (A), by striking “Director” and inserting  
13 “Assistant Secretary”; and

14 (5) by adding at the end the following new  
15 paragraph:

16 “(5) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The As-  
17 sistant Secretary may—

18 “(A) with the approval of the Secretary,  
19 appoint a Deputy Assistant Secretary; and

20 “(B) consistent with applicable law, utilize  
21 officers and employees of the Department as  
22 necessary to administer the activities of the  
23 Service.”.

24 (b) DUTIES.—Section 601(c) of the Indian Health  
25 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(c)) is amended—

1           (1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by  
2           striking “Director” and inserting “Assistant Sec-  
3           retary”; and

4           (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “date of en-  
5           actment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Re-  
6           authorization and Extension Act of 2009” and in-  
7           serting “date of enactment of the Stronger Engage-  
8           ment for Indian Health Needs Act of 2025”.

9           (c) **AUTHORITY.**—Section 601(d)(1) of the Indian  
10          Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(d)(1)) is  
11          amended in the matter before subparagraph (A), by strik-  
12          ing “Director” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”.

13          (d) **REFERENCES.**—Section 601 of the Indian Health  
14          Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661) is amended by  
15          adding at the end the following new subsection:

16          “(e) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference to the Director of  
17          the Indian Health Service in any Federal law, Executive  
18          order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or in  
19          any document of or relating to the Director of the Indian  
20          Health Service, shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant  
21          Secretary.”.

22          (e) **RATE OF BASIC PAY.**—

23                 (1) **POSITIONS AT LEVEL IV.**—Section 5315 of  
24                 title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking  
25                 “Assistant Secretaries of Health and Human Serv-

1        ices (6)” and inserting “Assistant Secretaries of  
2        Health and Human Services (7)”.

3            (2) POSITIONS AT LEVEL V.—Section 5316 of  
4        title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking  
5        “Director, Indian Health Service, Department of  
6        Health and Human Services.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to redesignate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services as Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes.”.

