

## **Questions for the Record by Democrat Members**

**Questions from Rep. Ruben Gallego** for Hon. William Smith, Acting Chairman, National Indian Health Board:

1. Can you please explain why it is necessary for the VA to reimburse the medical transportation costs described in H.R. 6237? Can you provide an example of a scenario in which this would be necessary?
2. How long has NIHB sought an administrative change to the VA's PRC reimbursement policy? What, historically, has been the VA's reasoning behind interpreting the reimbursement statute the way it does?
3. What kinds of services is the PRC fund normally used to reimburse?
4. Your testimony explains that, if a veteran requires services that are not available in an IHS, tribal, or tribal organization facility, the veteran must either be referred back to the VA (for reimbursement) or turn to the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program within the Indian Health Service. How long would this process normally take? What happens if the veteran requires immediate services?