

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Ruben Gallego for Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee, Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1. IHS recently announced that it was reserving \$95 million in CARES Act funding to support the expansion of telehealth activities across the IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Organization health programs, including purchasing equipment, software, and services directly related to the delivery of telehealth. Will part this money be disbursed to UIOs for this purpose? If not, how does IHS plan to improve telehealth activities across UIOs without funding individual programs?
2. Does IHS keep full or partial data on how many Native Veterans use federal IHS or Tribal facilities for primary care? If so, can you share that with the committee?

Questions for the Record by Republican Members

Questions from Rep. Rob Bishop for Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee, Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1. According to your testimony for H.R. 6535, IHS would prefer Urban Indian organizations utilize the Public Health Service Act for Federal Tort Claim Act (FTCA) liability coverage.

Please explain why the IHS recommends using the Public Health Service Act.

2. Currently, Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) are not eligible to enter into contracts or compacts with the Indian Health Service pursuant to the Indian Self Determination Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA). Because H.R. 6535 gives UIOs FTCA coverage under ISDEAA, could this legislation be construed as giving UIO's any other authority or benefit under ISDEAA?