

-Legislative Hearing-

**OPENING STATEMENT**

July 22, 2020

Thank you, Chairman Gallego.

As you mentioned, the subcommittee will be receiving testimony today on four pieces of legislation.

The first bill, H.R. 958, would amend the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 to broaden the criminal jurisdiction of Indian tribes over non-Indians to include (1) crimes against Native youth, tribal police officers, and other employees of the tribe; and (2) jurisdiction over non-Indian “caregivers.”

The second bill is H.R. 6237, which would amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to expand options for reimbursing costs of government health care for Native veterans, who have served this great nation with honor and dignity.

Under current law, only direct care provided by the Indian Health Service or a tribally operated health facility is eligible for reimbursement.

The third bill, H.R. 6535, would amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to extend Federal Tort Claims Act coverage to Urban Indian Organizations and their employees.

Under current law, the Federal Tort Claims Act extends coverage to Self-Governance contractors' employees and personal services contractors. There is no tort liability coverage for injuries that result from the negligent acts of employees at Urban Indian health organizations.

I am a cosponsor of the bill and support this legislation.

Lastly, we have my bill, H.R. 7119.

I want to thank the chairman for including this bill on today's agenda.

My legislation would direct the Indian Health Service to convey by warranty deed, 3.5-acres of land in Anchorage, Alaska to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for health-related activities.

ANTHC is the largest Tribal health organization in the United States, providing comprehensive medical services at the Alaska Native Medical Center, wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training, rural water and sanitation systems construction, and health training and education.

I appreciate the work ANTHC has done to improve health care outcomes for Alaska Natives.

I want to thank our witnesses and I am looking forward to hearing their testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.