

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Gallego for Ms. Francys Crevier, Chief Executive Officer, NCUIH:

1. In the hearing we discussed the challenges Urban Indian Organizations face in using funds allocated to them to make facilities upgrades or do construction. Is a permanent amendment to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act necessary to remove this barrier? Why?
2. What are some examples of facilities and construction projects UIOs could fund if this barrier was permanently lifted?
3. If this barrier was not in place in IHCIA, would UIOs have been able to respond more quickly to COVID-19 in terms of replacing HVAC units and investing in drive-thru testing facilities, and other construction and renovation needs?
4. Would amending Section 509 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 USC 1659) by striking “minor” before “renovations” and by striking “, to assist” through “standards” be sufficient to legislatively remove this barrier and fix this problem?

Questions from Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva for Ms. Francys Crevier, Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Urban Indian Health:

1. Last year, you testified before the United States Commission on Civil Rights regarding COVID-19’s impact on Indian Country. In the months since then, have you observed any new or emerging issues in the urban Indian health sphere?
2. What has been most challenging in your experience when providing quality healthcare to tribal citizens in an urban setting amid the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. Your testimony also expresses your organization’s frustration with the lack of follow-through surrounding tribal leader and organization feedback from the previous administration’s consultation sessions. In your opinion, what role has tribal consultation played in the federal government’s COVID-19 response efforts and how might it be improved?
 - a. In a similar vein, how have Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) been accounted for in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ urban confer sessions?