

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES
1324 LHOB & CISCO WEBEX
July 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. ET

Questions for the Record

Legislative Hearing on *H.R. 5549*

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Hon. Johnathan Nez, President, Navajo Nation & Navajo Area Representative, National Indian Health Board

1. Considering the immense impact that COVID-19 continues to have on tribal communities, can you provide an example of what would occur if another government shutdown might have on tribal health disparities?
2. It can be tough to adequately recruit and retain staff, especially for specialty positions, in rural communities like the ones I represent.
 - a. President Nez, would you please help us better understand the impact that CRs and shutdowns can have on staffing, which is critical to delivering the best care?
3. President Nez, you noted how a lack of funding during shutdowns often requires tribes to use their funds or even take out private loans.
 - a. Whether it's redirecting staff from other necessary projects or potentially harming tribes' credit rating, what is the ripple effect of CRs on tribal governments and services more broadly?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Hon. Kirk Francis, President, United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund

1. President Biden's FY2022 budget request notably called for advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service.
 - a. Can you speak to the historic nature of this request coming from an administration?
 - b. Why do you think this was not included for FY2023?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Hon. Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

1. Can you speak more on the need for advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service considering ongoing tribal economic development concerns?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Ms. Maureen Rosette, Board Member, National Council of Urban Indian Health

1. How would advance appropriations enable urban Indian organizations to better care for the health needs of urban American Indians and Alaska Natives?