HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Staff: Kirstin Liddell (Kirstin.Liddell@mail.house.gov), Haig Kadian (Haig.Kadian@mail.house.gov), and Seneca Feys (Seneca.Feys@mail.house.gov); x6-9725
Date: Monday, November 16, 2026
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 4 Bills

The Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs will hold a legislative hearing on four bills: H.R. 10307 (Rep. Begich), *"Anaktuvuk Pass Food Security Access Act"*; H.R. 10458 (Rep. Salinas), *"Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026"*; H.R. 10751 (Rep. Bergman), *"Tribal Oral Health Sovereignty Act"*; and H.R. 10956 (Rep. Kennedy of UT), *"IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2026"*.

The hearing will take place on **Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in 1324 Longworth House Office Building**.

Member offices are requested to notify Seneca Feys (Seneca.Feys@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- The hearing features three bills from House Republicans that promote tribal sovereignty and tribal healthcare.
- H.R. 10307 amends the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to ensure that residents of Anaktuvuk Pass may use motorized transportation within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve for subsistence purposes.
- H.R. 10751 amends the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHCIA) to remove the dental therapist caveat from the Indian Health Service's (IHS) Community Health Aide Program (CHAP), allowing tribal health programs to employ more dental therapists to serve native populations.
- H.R. 10956 amends IHCIA to allow IHS scholarship and loan repayment recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, providing an alternate means of eligibility on top of the current full-time requirement.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Members of Congress):

- ***To Be Announced***

Panel II (Outside Experts):

- **The Hon. Esther Hugo**, Vice President, Village of Anaktuvuk Pass (Naqsraġmiut) Tribal Council, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska [H.R. 10307]
- **The Hon. Mikah Carlos**, Board Member, National Indian Health Board, Washington, D.C. [H.R. 10956]
- **Ms. Dana Obey**, Vice President, American Dental Therapy Association, Anchorage, Alaska [H.R. 10751]
- **The Hon. Cheryle Kennedy**, Chairwoman, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde, Oregon [H.R. 10458] *(Minority Witness)*

III. BACKGROUND

H.R. 10307 (Rep. Begich) *"Anaktuvuk Pass Food Security Access Act"*

H.R. 10307, introduced by Representative Nick Begich (R-AK-AL), amends the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to ensure that residents of Anaktuvuk Pass may use motorized transportation within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve for subsistence purposes.[1]

Anaktuvuk Pass is a remote village located within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. A sizeable Alaska Native community developed there between 1948 and the early 1960s, when Nunamiut families began settling in the Anaktuvuk Pass. This settlement marked a significant change from their previous, semi-nomadic lifestyle, which centered on following caribou migrations.[2] Enacted in 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) led to the formation of over 200 Alaska Native village corporations,[3] including, the Nunamiut Corporation and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which now own much of the land surrounding Anaktuvuk Pass. Today, approximately 400 people live in Anaktuvuk Pass,[4] with many of the residents relying on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering for food security and cultural continuity.[5]

With ANILCA's enactment in 1980, the massive national monument encompassing Anaktuvuk Pass was redesignated as Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.[6] Under ANILCA, the

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[1] H.R. 10307, 119th Congress, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/10307/text?s=2&r=3.
[2] "Community - the North Slope Borough," The North Slope Borough, September 27, 2024, https://www.north-slope.org/departments/inupiat-history-language-culture/simon-paneak-memorial-museum/community/.
[3] "About the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act," ANCSA Regional Association, https://ancsaregional.com/about-ancsa/, accessed November 12, 2026.
[4] "Anaktuvuk Pass," The North Slope Borough, October 23, 2024, https://www.north-slope.org/our-communities/anaktuvuk-pass/.
[5] "NPS Proposes Off-Road Vehicle Access in Gates of the Arctic - Off-Road.com," Off-Road.com, October 17, 2026. https://www.off-road.com/blog/national-park-service-proposes-off-road-vehicle-access-in-gates-of-the-arctic/.
[6] "Creation of Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve," National Park Service, August 11, 2020, https://www.nps.gov/gaar/learn/historyculture/creation-of-gates-of-the-arctic-national-park-and-preserve.htm.

rights of Anaktuvuk Pass residents for continued traditional subsistence were preserved.[7] However, in 1986, a new interpretation of the law restricted the use of four-wheelers and similar off-road vehicles in most roadless areas of the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, since such vehicles had not traditionally been used to carry out subsistence rights.[8] This change significantly limited residents in Anaktuvuk Pass from hunting for survival and carrying on traditional cultural practices.[9]

H.R. 10307 codifies protections for Anaktuvuk Pass residents to use snowmobiles, motorboats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), tracked utility vehicles, and similar off-road vehicles for subsistence purposes.[10] This statutory change protects the village's subsistence rights from future administrative restrictions. The bill does not establish a general recreational off-road vehicle authorization or extend the same access rights to all park visitors.[11]

H.R. 10458 (Rep. Salinas), *"Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026"*

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Grand Ronde Tribe) is a federally recognized tribe, which unites the Umpqua, Molalla, Rogue River, Kalapuya, and Chasta peoples.[12] The diverse peoples of the Grand Ronde Tribe historically inhabited western Oregon, northern California, and southwest Washington.[13] The original Grand Ronde Reservation was established by an executive order in 1857 and encompassed 69,000 acres.[14] The tribe lost 33,000 acres in the late 1800s,[15] and through the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, the tribe's land was further reduced to 500 acres. In 1954, the tribe's federal recognition was terminated, closing the reservation and severing the federal government's trust relationship. The tribe regained federal recognition in 1983; it went on to recover 9,811 acres of its original reservation lands by 1988.[16]

H.R. 10458 returns additional land to the tribe by transferring approximately 18,628 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-administered land to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to be held in trust for the Grand Ronde Tribe. The legislation clarifies that federal laws relating to the export of unprocessed logs from timber harvests on the land will still apply post-transfer and preserves reciprocal right-of-way and cooperative agreements in place on the date of the transfer.[17]

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[7] Thanh Tung, "Gates of the Arctic National Park History," National Parks, May 3, 2025. https://www.national-park.com/gates-of-the-arctic-national-park-history/.
[8] *Id.*
[9] Alena Naiden, "Anaktuvuk Pass Residents Get Long-sought Permission to Use ATVs to Hunt in the Gates of the Arctic," *KNBA*, June 16, 2026, https://www.knba.org/news/2026-06-16/anaktuvuk-pass-residents-get-long-sought-permission-to-use-atvs-to-hunt-in-the-gates-of-the-arctic.
[10] H.R. 10307, 119th Congress, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/10307/text?s=2&r=3.
[11] *Id.*
[12] "The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde," The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, https://www.grandronde.org/.
[13] *Id.*
[14] Veronica E. Velarde Tiller, TILLER'S GUIDE TO INDIAN COUNTRY: ECONOMIC PROFILES OF AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS, (3rd ed. 2015), pg. 671.
[15] *Id.*
[16] *Id.*
[17] H.R. 10458, 119th Congress, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/10458/text?s=6&r=2&hl=grand+ronde+land+transfer+act+of+2026.

The bill ensures the transferred land will remain publicly accessible for hunting, fishing, and general recreation.[18] The legislation also includes a gaming prohibition and requires DOI and the Grand Ronde Tribe to develop, within 180 days of enactment, a memorandum of understanding to secure DOI's existing administrative access to the conveyed lands.[19]

Some Members may wish to consider how land transfers such at this could impact competing land uses, public access, and land management, in addition to the land's historical and cultural significance to the tribe.

H.R. 10751 (Rep. Bergman), *"Tribal Oral Health Sovereignty Act"*

H.R. 10751, introduced by Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI-01), amends the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act (IHCIA) by removing the dental therapist exception from the Indian Health Service's (IHS) Community Health Aide Program (CHAP).

When Congress expanded CHAP in 2010, it required explicit state authorization for dental therapists to operate.[20] This requirement does not apply to dental therapists in Alaska.[21] As mid-level healthcare providers, dental therapists meet between half and two-thirds of patient needs and help alleviate patient backups at dental offices.[22] Currently, 14 states have authorized dental therapists.[23] In Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, where dental therapists have been integral to Native Alaskan dental care since 2006, their work has led to higher rates of preventive care for Alaska Native children and adults.[24]

H.R. 10751 removes a hindrance to tribal dental care, allowing tribal health programs to employ more dental therapists to serve their communities.[25] Under the bill, dental therapists must meet Community Health Aide Certification Board standards or be certified by a tribe whose Indian health programs meet or exceed Community Health Aide Certification Board standards.[26] The bill also protects existing CHAP funding requirements for existing Alaskan programs.[27]

H.R. 10956 (Rep. Kennedy of UT), *"IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2026"*

Originally enacted in 1976, IHCIA established the federal government's responsibility for providing health services to American Indian and Alaska Natives.[28] It authorizes programs, funding, and policies for IHS and tribal health systems, including a scholarship program and a

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[18] *Id.*
[19] *Id.*
[20] Background Information Provided to Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Staff from Representative Jack Bergman's Staff on October 30, 2026.
[21] *Id.*
[22] *Id.*
[23] Background Information Provided to Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs Staff from Representative Jack Bergman's staff on October 30, 2026.
[24] Donald L. Chi, et al., "Dental therapists linked to improved dental outcomes for Alaska Native communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta," Journal of Public Health Dentistry, January 29th, 2018, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6019600/.
[25] H.R. 10751, 119th Congress, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/10751/text.
[26] *Id.*
[27] *Id.*
[28] S. Rept. 119-21, May 12, 2025, https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/119th-congress/senate-report/21/1?outputFormat=pdf.

loan repayment program, offered to eligible health care professionals.[29] Specifically, the IHS Indian Health Professionals Scholarship Program provides eligible students with financial support encompassing a monthly stipend, full tuition assistance, or other educational expenses, in exchange for two-years of full-time service.[30] The IHS Loan Repayment Program provides up to $50,000 towards eligible health professions education loans, in exchange for the full-time service requirement.[31]

The IHS currently struggles to recruit and retain health care professionals. The full-time work requirement for its scholarship and loan repayment program impedes recruitment and retention of health care professionals in tribal communities.

H.R. 10956, introduced by Representative Mike Kennedy (R-UT-04), amends IHCIA to allow IHS scholarship and loan repayment recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, instead of through the current full-time requirement.[32]

The legislation proposes a system modeled after the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs.[33] The NHSC programs allow loan repayment and scholarship recipients to fulfill their service obligations through half-time clinical work for double the service time, or to accept half the loan repayment for the same two-year period, rather than only the full-time repayment option.[34] H.R. 10956 adopts this same program structure and amends IHCIA by extending the current two-year obligation under both programs for full-time health professionals to a four-year obligation for half-time health professionals, or reducing the amount awarded in both programs for eligible half-time health professionals who select a two-year obligation.[35] By aligning more closely with other loan repayment programs, the bill aims to improve recruitment and retention of qualified healthcare professionals.[36]

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION

H.R. 10307 (Rep. Begich) *"Anaktuvuk Pass Food Security Access Act"*

Sec. 2 Transportation for Subsistence Users.

- Amends Section 201(4)(a) of ANILCA to permit residents of Anaktuvuk Pass to use snowmobiles, motorboats, all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, tracked utility vehicles, and similar off-road vehicles within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve for subsistence purposes.

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[29] 25 U.S.C. §§1613a, 1616a.
[30] *Id.*
[31] *Id.*
[32] H.R. 10956, 119th Congress, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/10307/text?s=2&r=3.
[33] *Id.*
[34] *Id.*
[35] H.R. 10956, 119th Congress, https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/10307/text?s=2&r=3.
[36] S. Rept. 119-21, May 12, 2025, https://www.congress.gov/committee-report/119th-congress/senate-report/21/1?outputFormat=pdf.

H.R. 10458 (Rep. Salinas), *"Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026"*

Sec 3. Land to be Held in Trust.

- Conveys approximately 18,628 acres of USFS land to DOI to be held in trust for the benefit of the Grand Ronde Tribe.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a survey of the land within two years of the bill's enactment.

Sec 4. Administration of Grand Ronde Conveyance Land.

- Clarifies that all federal laws and regulations regarding the export of unprocessed logs harvested in the conveyed lands will still apply after the transfer.
- Prohibits gaming on the transferred land, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
- Clarifies that public use of the lands for hunting, fishing, and general recreation will remain open.

H.R. 10751 (Rep. Bergman), *"Tribal Oral Health Sovereignty Act"*

Sec 2. Dental Therapist Services Under Community Health Aide Program.

- Removes the dental therapists carve-out, ending requirements for tribes to gain explicit state authorization before offering dental therapist services. This change does not affect Alaskan dental therapists, as they were already exempt.
- Certifies the practice authority for dental therapists, so long as such professionals are Community Health Aide Certification Board- or Indian Health Program-compliant.

H.R. 10956 (Rep. Kennedy of UT), *"IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2026"*

Sec 2. Indian Health Service Scholarship and Loan Recipients.

- Permits recipients of an Indian Health Professions Scholarship to meet their service obligations through half-time practice if they agree to serve for double the period of obligated service set for full-time practice.
- Clarifies that when an Indian Health Professions Scholarship recipient fails to begin or complete their service obligation, the recipient is subject to IHCIA's breach of contract provisions, and the periods of service completed in half-time practice shall be converted to their full-time equivalents for purposes of determining breach of contract damages.
- Expands participation in the IHS Loan Repayment program to individuals who have contracted to serve in clinical practice with an Indian health program for at least four years if at half- time service and subject to certain conditions, or for two years at half-time service if the individual's loan payment is equal to 50 percent of the amount of an individual who contracted to work full-time for two years.
- Clarifies that when an IHS Loan Repayment recipient fails to begin or complete their period of obligated service through half-time practice, those periods of service completed in half-time practice shall be converted to their full-time equivalents for purposes of determining breach of contract damages.

V. CBO COST ESTIMATE

H.R. 10956 is identical to S. 632, which the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated would cost $17 million over the period from Fiscal Years 2025- 2030.[37] A formal cost estimate from CBO is not yet available for the remaining three bills.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Trump administration's position on these bills is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

H.R. 10307

H.R. 10751

H.R. 10956

[37] "Cost Estimate: S. 632, IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2025," Congressional Budget Office, July 30, 2025, https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61607.