

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0326-19

DATE: November 1, 2019

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) MICHAEL D. WEAHKEE AS DIRECTOR OF INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES


PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to support the appointment of RADM Weahkee as Director of Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: High
Website Posting Time/Date: 6:49pm 11-1-19
Posting End Date: 11-06-19
Eligible for Action: 11-07-19

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY


Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0326-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
APPOINTMENT OF REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) MICHAEL D. WEAHKEE AS
DIRECTOR OF INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to recommend to the United States departments and agencies the appointment of individuals who will fulfill the requirements of their office and serve the interests of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701 (A)(9).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human.
- C. RADM Michael D. Weahkee has been *Acting* Director of the Indian Health Services under the Donald Trump administration; during that time, RADM Weahkee has been receptive to working with the Navajo Nation on health care issues affecting the Navajo populace.
- D. As set forth in **Exhibit A**, RADM Weahkee is well-qualified to serve as the Director of Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and it will serve the interests of the Navajo Nation to have him appointed to that position.

1 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 2 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the appointment of RADM Michael D. Weahkee
3 as Director of the Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human
4 Services.
- 5 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council,
6 President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the appointment of
7 RADM Michael D. Weahkee as Director of the Indian Health Services, U.S.
8 Department of Health and Human Services.
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Biography

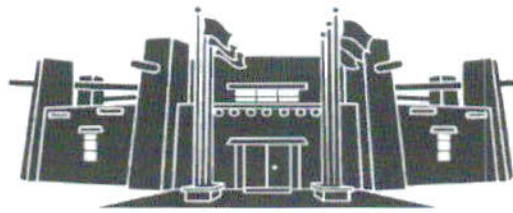
Michael D. Weahkee was born in the Shiprock Hospital on the Navajo reservation, an enrolled member of the [Zuni Native American](#) tribe. He served in the [US Air Force](#) as a health care specialist after attending Arizona State University and Southern Illinois University, and he later became CEO of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. Under President [Donald Trump](#), he was appointed acting director of the Indian Health Service.

Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee, an enrolled member of the Zuni Tribe, is the Principal Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS is the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As Principal Deputy Director, RADM Weahkee administers a nationwide health care delivery program that is responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community health care for approximately 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in hospitals, clinics, and other settings throughout the United States.

RADM Weahkee previously served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, the largest federally-operated facility in the Indian Health Service. He was born in the Shiprock Public Health Service Hospital on the Navajo reservation and grew up as a direct service user of the IHS. Michael began his professional health care career in the United States Air Force, as a Public Health Specialist. After completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Management from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, he left the Air Force to pursue advanced hospital administration training, receiving both his Master of Health Services Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

RADM Weahkee has also served in a variety of different roles at IHS Headquarters, including: Executive Officer for the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services; Director of the Management Policy and Internal Control Staff office; and, as the Deputy Director for Personnel Functions in the Office of Management Services, charged with management oversight of Human Resources, Commissioned Personnel Support and Program Integrity and Ethics for the Agency. RADM Weahkee also served on memorandum of agreement to the California Rural Indian Health Board, both as the director of family and community health services and as deputy director of the health board.

Michael has received several public health service honors and awards, including an Exceptional Proficiency Promotion to the rank of Captain, two Outstanding Service Medals, and two IHS National Director's Awards.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Daniel Tso
Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Brewitt, Casamero
Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor Chapters

FROM: Dana L. Bobroff
Dana L. Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: November 1, 2019

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION
RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
APPOINTMENT OF REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) MICHAEL D. WEAHKEE
AS DIRECTOR OF INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0326-19

SPONSOR: Daniel E. Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating To NAABIK'IYATI' Supporting The Appointment Of Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee As Director Of Indian Health Services, U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services

Date posted: November 1, 2019 at 6:49 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0326-19

SPONSOR: Honorable Daniel Tso


TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti Committee; Supporting the appointment for Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee as Director of Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Posted: November 01, 2019 at 6:49 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: November 06, 2019

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Jill Jim, Executive Director Navajo Department of Health
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	<i>None</i>



**Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services**

11/07/19 8:18 AM

Date/Time

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



November 2, 2019

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Udall, and Members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs:

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we strongly support the nomination of Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee, of the Pueblo of Zuni, and ask your support of his confirmation as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) under the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). RADM Weahkee served as the Principal Deputy Director and Acting Director of the IHS for the past two and a half years, and in the past year he has always provided his time to meet with us to discuss critical issues for our Nation and moved our issues forward with care to ensure all issues were addressed to the satisfaction of all involved.

RADM Weahkee is a decorated public servant and veteran of the United States Air Force. He is the recipient of four IHS National Director's Awards, three outstanding service medal awards, a Presidential Unit Citation, and is recognized for other notable career and military service achievements. He obtained his bachelor of science in healthcare management degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and a master of health services administration and master of business administration degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

RADM Weahkee's career assignments over the last 20 years are with IHS. He has aimed at improving the delivery of healthcare services in Indian Country; consistently hitting the mark of improved service delivery.

RADM Weahkee has served in a variety of different roles within the Indian Health system of care at the tribal and Federal levels. This experience is valuable in knowing the health care system needs of Native Americans. No other qualified Native American has this experience and this makes RADM Weahkee exceptionally fit for this important role. We fully support RADM Weahkee's nomination and urge confirmation as the Director of the Indian Health Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, *Vice-President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

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