

## 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  
24<sup>th</sup> 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

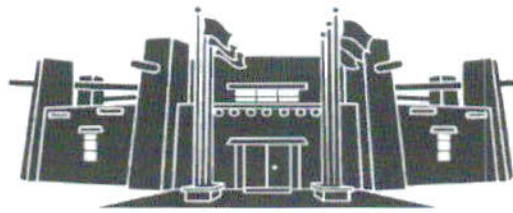
Michael D. Weahkee was born in the Shiprock Hospital on the Navajo reservation, an enrolled member of the [Zuni Native American](#) tribe. He served in the [US Air Force](#) as a health care specialist after attending Arizona State University and Southern Illinois University, and he later became CEO 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](mailto: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.*