



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

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July 5, 2024

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
U.S. House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation ("CCT" or "Colville Tribes") supports the draft bill that your office shared with us that would require the Indian Health Service ("IHS") to establish a uniform and standardized credentialing system for IHS to utilize in hiring health providers.

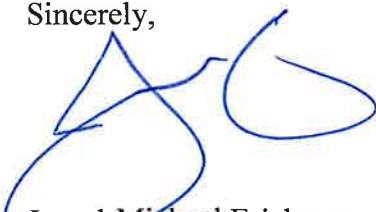
The draft bill is a component part of the "Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act," a bill that the CCT substantively engaged on when the bill was being developed in 2017. The CCT drafted the "Staffing Demonstration Project Act" section of the bill and also provided input on other sections of the bill. The Act focused on issues affecting federally managed service units, or "direct service" tribes, of which the CCT is one.

The CCT testified before the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs at its July 27, 2023, legislative hearing on an updated, draft version of the Act developed by Rep. Dusty Johnson. The CCT expressed its full support for the bill at that hearing.

As IHS Director Roselyn Tso acknowledged at that July 27 hearing, IHS's credentialing system and its process for onboarding health providers is too slow. The CCT has experienced this problem firsthand. In at least one case, our staff have recruited health providers who were interested in working at the Colville Service Unit only to see them pursue opportunities elsewhere because of the slow pace of credentialing process. The CCT would benefit from this provision being enacted into law and supports its introduction and enactment into law.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jarred-Michael Erickson
CHAIRMAN