

AI/AN Health Partners

December 3, 2022

Ms. Roselyn Tso
Director
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane,
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Director Tso:

The AI/AN Health Partners congratulates you on your appointment as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS is fortunate to have someone with your broad experience at many levels in the IHS. You bring a great understanding of the health care needs and challenges that AI/ANs have faced daily for decades.

The AI/AN Health Partners, a coalition of health organizations dedicated to improving health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives, shares your dedication and leadership to improving the health care of American Indians and Alaska Natives

We were pleased to see that in your May 2022 testimony before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee (SIAC) you highlighted that addressing the Service workforce needs and challenges to provide quality and safe care would be one of your top priorities as the IHS Director. You also said that the “IHS must improve its recruitment and retention efforts, enhance support and training for its workforce and institute a robust succession plan to reduce employee turnover and ensure stability.”

The AI/AN Health Partners shares your goals and has also prioritized increasing the IHS and Tribal health care workforces. We have attached our most recent letter to Congressional appropriators focusing on budget items that we believe will help recruit and retain health care providers from all fields.

We have enjoyed meeting annually with the IHS leadership to learn of the agency’s concerns and priorities. We have found these meetings to be tremendously helpful for understanding the challenges that the Service and tribal facilities face. They also allow our members to share their insights from the work their organizations do in Indian Country. Unfortunately, due to the late release by the Administration of its FY 2023 IHS budget justification, we were unable to meet this year. We hope that we will be able to resume these meeting with you and your staff as soon as possible.

Congratulations again on your appointment as IHS Director. We look forward to working with you to improve health care for AI/ANs.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

American Academy of PAs
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS
National Kidney Foundation