

# Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service



October 30, 2019

The Hon. John Hoeven  
Chair, Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Tom Udall  
Vice Chair, Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Hoeven and Vice Chair Udall:

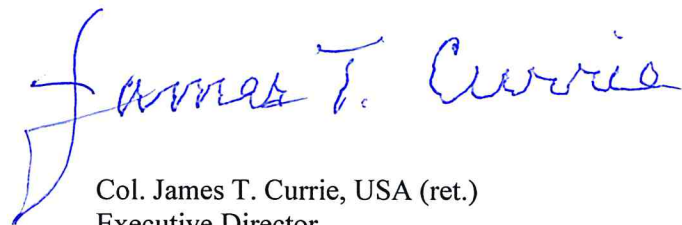
It is my pleasure to support the nomination of RADM Michael D. Weakhee to become Director of the Indian Health Service. In my capacity as Executive Director of the non-profit, non-partisan organization that represents the uniformed officers of the US Public Health Service, I have gotten to know RADM Weakhee and have worked with him on Native American healthcare issues for the past five years, dating back to when he was at the Phoenix (AZ) Indian Medical Center, the largest hospital in the Indian Health Service.

I know RADM Weakhee to be a capable and qualified administrator who cares deeply about the state of healthcare for our country's Indian population. He has been serving for the past two-plus years as Principal Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service and has done a superb job of running the agency as Acting Director.

RADM Weakhee is an enrolled member of the Zuni Indian Tribe and has been assigned to the Indian Health Service as a PHS officer since entering the US Public Health Service in 1999 as a Lieutenant Junior Grade. He has always served in positions that called for higher-ranking officers, and his advancement to the rank of Rear Admiral in the USPHS is testimony to his extremely capable performance of duty.

RADM Weakhee is passionate about the work of the Indian Health Service and would be in a better position to realize his vision of improved delivery of healthcare services to Native Americans if he were confirmed as Director of the Indian Health Service. I urge that he be given a favorable recommendation by your committee and that his nomination be forwarded to the full Senate for consideration.

Respectfully,



Col. James T. Currie, USA (ret.)  
Executive Director