

# QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

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February 5, 2018

Hon. John Hoeven  
Chairman  
Attn. Mike Andrews, Staff Director  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Tom Udall  
Vice Chairman  
Attn. Jennifer Romero, Staff Director  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Re: Robert Weaver's Nomination to be Director – Indian Health Service*

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Vice Chairman Udall:

Delivering high-quality health programs and services to Indian people is one of the most important obligations of the United States. After decades of neglect, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has seen significant increases in federal funding in recent years.

Nonetheless, the IHS continues to have challenges to fulfilling its important mission, and many of these challenges seem to be of an administrative and management character. Barely a week passes, it seems, without unflattering portrayals of the IHS and its failure to provide the kind of healthcare Indian people have every right to expect from the federal government.

The archaic and very unimpressive history of the past leadership calls for a young mind with a lot of energy who can bring what the agency needs and that is an efficient delivery of health services from a man who has grown up with the failures on the ground.

Given this state of affairs, I write to support the nomination of Robert Weaver to be Director of the IHS. In October 2017, the President sent Robert's nomination to the United States Senate for its review and consideration. That nomination is now pending before the Committee on Indian Affairs.

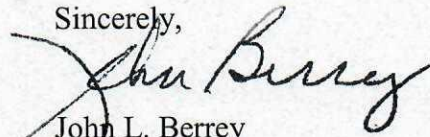
An enrolled member of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah), Robert would bring more than 20 years of experience in various administrative and management capacities. These roles have included hospital administration, mental health, financial management, and an impressive record of private sector achievement in the health care industry.

In addition to deep and genuine relationships Robert has developed with Indian tribes over the years, I believe his perspective as a non-physician business executive will go a long way in guiding the IHS through its current difficulties.

I urge the Committee to swiftly take up Robert's nomination and favorably report it to the full Senate for its consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Berrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John L. Berrey  
CHAIRMAN

cc Members, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs