



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee staff, Ken Degenfelder
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Date: Monday, June 9, 2025
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 4 Bills

The Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs will hold a legislative hearing on four bills: H.R. 411 (Rep. Bergman), “*Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act of 2025*”; H.R. 2916 (Rep. Stefanik), To authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York, and for other purposes.; H.R. 3620 (Rep. Begich), “*Southcentral Foundation Land Transfer Act of 2025*”; and H.R. 3670 (Rep. Stansbury), “*IHS Provider Expansion Act*” on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.**

Member offices are requested to notify Haig Kadian (Haig.Kadian@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, if their member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- The three bills introduced by House Republicans will support tribal sovereignty, the restoration of tribal homelands, and the well-being of tribal members and their local communities.
- H.R. 411 would direct the Department of the Interior to transfer funds to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) to settle the KBIC's land claims and clear title to those lands.
- H.R. 2916 would authorize, ratify, and confirm the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement.
- H.R. 3620 would convey certain federal property to the Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska, to support its health care services
- H.R. 3670 would establish an Office of Graduate Medical Education Programs within the Indian Health Service (IHS).

II. WITNESSES

Panel I:

- **Members of Congress TBD**

Panel II:

- **Mr. Darrell LaRoche**, Acting Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC [H.R. 3620 and H.R. 3670]

Panel III:

- **The Hon. Robert Curtis, Jr.**, President, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Baraga, MI [H.R. 411]
- **The Hon. Beverly Cook**, Chief, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Akwesasne, NY [H.R. 2916]
- **Ms. Leandra Ross**, Vice-President of Executive and Tribal Services, Southcentral Foundation, Anchorage, AK [H.R. 3620]
- **Dr. Adriann Begay**, Navajo Nation Senior Advisor, UCSF HEAL Initiative, Oakland, CA [H.R. 3670] [*Minority Witness*]

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 411 \(Rep. Bergman\), “Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act of 2025”](#)

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) of the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe whose reservation is comprised primarily of two non-contiguous tracts on either side of Keweenaw Bay in Baraga County in the Upper Peninsula, Michigan.¹ KBIC is the successor in interest to two treaties with the United States, meaning that the tribe has inherited the rights and obligations of those treaties from the Chippewa Indians. The 1842 Treaty with the Chippewa Indians at La Pointe guaranteed rights of use and occupancy of certain Michigan lands.² Subsequently, the 1854 Treaty with the Chippewa Indians at La Pointe created a permanent reservation known as the L’Anse Reservation.³ Both treaties remain in full force and effect⁴.

Despite the guarantees of the two treaties, the federal government transferred between 4,076 and 5,463 acres of reservation land to the State of Michigan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.⁵ These transfers occurred under two federal laws, the Swamp Land Act of 1850 and the Canal Lands Act of 1852.⁶

¹ S. Rept. 118-129. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act of 2023. Senate Indian Affairs Committee. 118th Congress. 1. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/118th-congress/senate-report/129/1?outputFormat=pdf>.

² Treaty with the Chippewa at La Pointe. Oct. 1842. 7 Stat. 591.

³ Treaty with the Chippewa at La Pointe. Sept. 1854. 10 Stat. 1109.

⁴ S. Rept. 118-129. 2. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/118th-congress/senate-report/129/1?outputFormat=pdf>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

Under the Swamp Land Act of 1850,⁷ approximately 2,743 acres of reservation land were transferred between 1893 and 1937.⁸ The Swamp Land Act allowed certain states to claim “swamp and overflowed” federal public lands within their borders to drain and convert them to productive use. However, the reservation lands were not public lands available for transfer, and nothing in the Act voided the treaties or extinguished the tribe’s claim to the land.

Under the Canal Lands Act of 1852,⁹ between 1,333 and 2,720 acres of reservation land were transferred to the State of Michigan.¹⁰ The Act also granted the State of Michigan the right to select 750,000 acres of unsold public land within the state to help cover the costs of constructing the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, which connected Lake Superior to Lake Huron.¹¹ Nothing in the Act voided the treaties or extinguished the tribe’s claim to the land.¹² Furthermore, when approving the land selections for the State of Michigan, the Secretary of DOI noted that approval was “subject to any valid interfering rights.”¹³

These transfers, which occurred without any compensation to the Tribe and in violation of the treaties,¹⁴ form the basis for KBIC’s claims. KBIC did not pursue these claims through the Indian Claims Commission (ICC) when that tribunal was in operation from 1946 to 1978.¹⁵ However, according to the tribe, several historical factors explain why KBIC did not go before the ICC.

First, KBIC believed that the State of Michigan was primarily responsible for the unlawful transfers. The state selected the parcels under federal authority, acquired the titles, and subsequently conveyed the land to private parties. Because the ICC’s jurisdiction extended only to claims against the United States, KBIC believed that the ICC could not reach the party that the tribe viewed as being the most culpable.¹⁶

Second, the ICC could award only monetary damages. The ICC could not provide equitable relief, such as the return of land or a declaratory recognition of tribal land rights. KBIC feared that seeking only damages could weaken its ability to assert that the Canal and Swamp Lands remained part of its reservation under the applicable treaties. This concern was particularly relevant because, at that time, the State of Michigan took the position that the lands in question

⁷ Sept. 28, 1850. Ch. 84, 9 Stat. 519.

⁸ S. Rept. 118-129. 2. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/118th-congress/senate-report/129/1?outputFormat=pdf>.

⁹ Aug. 26, 1852. Ch. 92, 10 Stat. 35.

¹⁰ S. Rept. 118-129. 2. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/118th-congress/senate-report/129/1?outputFormat=pdf>.

¹¹ Aug. 26, 1852. Ch. 92, 10 Stat. 35.

¹² *Id.*, 35-36.

¹³ Letter from McClelland to Commissioner of General Land Office, January 25, 1855. Provided by KBIC to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/1855_01_25_McClelland_to_Commissioner_of_General_Land_Office_highlighting.pdf.

¹⁴ S. Rept. 118-129. 2. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/118th-congress/senate-report/129/1?outputFormat=pdf>.

¹⁵ Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Canal Lands and Swamp Lands Claims. Provided by KBIC to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/KBIC_ltr_on_ICC_9.5.24.pdf.

¹⁶ *Id.*

were not part of the L’Anse Reservation.¹⁷ Only after the ICC was dissolved in 1978 did the federal courts clarify that KBIC’s treaty rights to these lands remained intact.¹⁸ These rulings affirmed the legal strength of KBIC’s claims.

Third, the ICC primarily adjudicated claims alleging that the United States paid “unconscionably low” compensation for land cessions. Over 90 percent of the more than 600 cases filed with the ICC fell into this category. Claims like KBIC’s, which asserted uncompensated takings from within established reservations, were rare and ill-suited to consolidation with other tribal claims. Moreover, attorneys working on contingency often avoided novel or fact-intensive claims like KBIC’s, which could not easily be grouped with those of other Chippewa bands from the Lake Superior region.¹⁹ In a December 2021 letter, DOI formally determined that the Tribe’s claims had merit.²⁰

H.R. 411 would authorize \$33.9 million to be transferred to KBIC in exchange for extinguishing KBIC’s claims to portions of their treaty lands. Key community stakeholders, including Baraga County, the Village of Baraga, and the Village of L’Anse, support this legislation.²¹ A professional appraisal—which considered the acreage taken, cost of the land at the time it was taken, and the value of lost use—estimated that damages to KBIC from the unlawful transfers ranged between \$26.3 million and \$44.2 million. KBIC and the bill’s sponsors agreed that H.R. 411 should require DOI to pay KBIC \$33.9 million, the approximate midpoint of that range.²²

H.R. 411 authorizes those funds to be used for any lawful purpose, specifically noting that governmental services, economic development, natural resources protection, and land acquisition are acceptable purposes. However, funds received cannot be used for the purchase of land for gaming purposes. Importantly, by extinguishing KBIC’s claims, H.R. 411 also clears title for the current non-tribal landowners. Current landowners acquired the land in good faith, but the title remains clouded because of the unresolved tribal claim. H.R. 411 removes this obstacle and provides agreed upon compensation.

[H.R. 2916 \(Rep. Stefanik\), To authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York, and for other purposes.](#)

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) is a community located on the border of New York State and Canada, along the St. Lawrence River. SMRT’s U.S. reservation spans two counties,

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ See *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community v. Michigan*, 784 F. Supp. 413 (W.D. Mich. 1991), (affirming that the Canal and Swamp Lands remained Indian country under 18 U.S.C. § 1151, regardless of subsequent conveyances) and *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community v. Naftaly*, 452 F.3d 514 (6th Cir. 2005), (KBIC retained both aboriginal and treaty-protected title to the lands).

¹⁹ Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Canal Lands and Swamp Lands Claims. Provided by KBIC to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/KBIC_ltr_on_ICC_9.5.24.pdf.

²⁰ Letter from Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland to KBIC President Warren Swartz, Jr. December 10, 2021.

²¹ Letters of Support for H.R. 411. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Letters_of_Support_-_Keweenaw_Bay.pdf.

²² Appraisal Letter. Confidential; summary provided by KBIC to IIA Staff.

covering roughly 14,648 acres.²³ On the Canadian side of the border, the reservation occupies approximately 7,400 acres under the jurisdiction of SRMT’s counterpart, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA).²⁴

The SRMT is part of the Iroquois Confederacy, with ancestral lands spanning over 15,000 square miles from the St. Lawrence River up to the Delaware River and from the West-Canada Unadilla Creek to the Hudson River.²⁵ In the late 1600s the Iroquois migrated further into the area near the St. Lawrence River. In the 1750s, a group of Christian Mohawks migrated to present-day Saint Regis²⁶ and established what is now the oldest mission in present-day New York. Other bands of Indians, including a band of Abenakis and refugees from the Oswegatchie Mission, came to join the Mohawks at Saint Regis.²⁷ Despite immigration, the culture of the Mohawks remained.²⁸ Following the Revolutionary War, the Seven Nations of Canada and the State of New York signed the 1796 treaty, which gave the SRMT its reservation.²⁹

Shortly after, the State of New York attempted to acquire land tracts from the SRMT. In 1824 and 1825, the State of New York acquired land from the SRMT (“SRM Land”).³⁰ Due to the Non-Intercourse Act, this land transaction did not include the federal government.³¹ The Non-Intercourse Act, one of the earliest laws passed by Congress after the ratification of the Constitution, reserved the United States the exclusive right to acquire Indian lands.³² The Act was intended to protect Indian tribes by preventing the loss of their lands, except through a treaty. It prevents the transfer, sale, lease, or other conveyance of land owned by an Indian tribe to third parties without federal approval.

As the federal government did not participate in the transfer of the SRM Land, the SRMT and its Canadian counterpart, MCA, have sought to return these lands to tribal ownership. Beginning in 1982, lawsuits were filed on the issue of who rightfully should own the SRM Land.³³ In 2004, the parties—SRMT, the MCA, the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs (MNCC),³⁴ the State of New York, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA)—

²³ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 582.

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Culture and History. <https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/culture-and-history>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.* Treaty with the Seven Nations of Canada, 1796. May 31, 1796. 7 Stat., 55. Proclamation, Jan. 31, 1797.

³⁰ Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. U.S. District Court Affirms 1796 Treaty Boundary. March 2022. <https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/news/u-s-district-court-affirms-1796-treaty-boundary>. House Committee on Resources. Oversight Hearing on the Status of Settlement of the Claims of the Federally Recognized Tribes to Lands in the State of New York. Testimony of Michael Olsen. July 2005. <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/ny-land-claims>. Indian Law Resource Center. Mohawk Land Rights. <https://indianlaw.org/molr/home>.

³¹ 25 U.S.C. §177.

³² *Id.*

³³ *See, e.g., Canadian St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians v. New York*, 146 F. Supp. 2d 170 (N.D.N.Y 2001); *Canadian St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians v. New York*, 573 F. Supp. 1530 (N.D.N.Y 1983).

³⁴ The Mohawk Council of Chiefs is the traditional government of the Mohawk tribe. They are separate from the SRMT and have removed themselves from the settlement associated with H.R. 2916.

agreed upon a settlement.³⁵ However, in 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York* that the Oneida Tribe could not assert tribal sovereignty over re-purchased land.³⁶ This decision made it more challenging for tribes to assert land claims based on the Non-Intercourse Act if the tribe had failed to assert a claim to the land in a timely manner. The *Sherrill v. Oneida* decision was then used by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss a land claim brought forth by the Cayuga Indian Nation.³⁷ Following those decisions, the Franklin and St. Lawrence counties withdrew from the settlement, followed shortly thereafter by the State of New York.³⁸

Following the settlement's collapse, negotiations remained dormant. The courts saw continued activity, and in 2013, the SRMT saw a pivotal decision made in their favor. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York (N.D.N.Y.) ruled that the area known as the "Hogansburg Triangle" was part of the SRMT's reservation, citing key differences between the Mohawk's claims and those seen in cases brought forth by Oneida and Cayuga Indian Nations.³⁹ With the decision made by the N.D.N.Y., negotiations between the parties resumed. In 2014, the SRMT, the State of New York, and St. Lawrence County signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based upon the previous 2004 settlement framework.⁴⁰ In 2016, negotiations with Franklin County also resumed.⁴¹ After proceeding with litigation, the SRMT, MCA and the MNCC won in the N.D.N.Y. in 2022. In the ruling, it was determined that the State of New York's purchase of SRM Land violated the Non-Intercourse Act and the SRMT's original reservation boundaries remained.⁴²

Following the N.D.N.Y.'s 2022 decision, mediation between the parties started, culminating in 2024 when Franklin and St. Lawrence counties and SRMT signed onto the proposed settlement.⁴³ The MCA signed onto the settlement in early 2025.⁴⁴ The settlement includes key

³⁵ NYS Land Claim Chronology. One Pager provided by the SRM tribe to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Chronology_Pages_from_Akwesasne_Mohawk_Land_Claim_Information_20-Nov-24_Final.pdf. Indianz. Mohawk Tribes Announce Land Claim Settlement. October 2004. https://indianz.com/News/2004/10/07/mohawk_tribes_a.asp.

³⁶ 544 U.S. 197 (2005).

³⁷ See *Cayuga Indian Nation of New York v. Pataki*, 413 F.3d 266 (2d Cir. 2005).

³⁸ NYS Land Claim Chronology. One Pager provided by the SRM tribe to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Chronology_Pages_from_Akwesasne_Mohawk_Land_Claim_Information_20-Nov-24_Final.pdf. Indian Law Resource Center. Mohawk Land Rights. <https://indianlaw.org/molr/home>.

³⁹ Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Mohawks Win Landmark Ruling in Land Claim Litigation. July 2013. https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/news/mohawks_win_landmark_ruling_in_land_claim_litigation.

⁴⁰ NYS Land Claim Chronology. One Pager provided by the SRM tribe to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Chronology_Pages_from_Akwesasne_Mohawk_Land_Claim_Information_20-Nov-24_Final.pdf.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Memorandum-Decision and Order*, Case No. 5:82-cv-00783-LEK-TWD, (N.D.N.Y., Mar. 14, 2022). <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/assets/files/Mohawk%20ruling%203-14-22.pdf>. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. U.S. District Court Affirms 1796 Treaty Boundary. <https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/news/u-s-district-court-affirms-1796-treaty-boundary>.

⁴³ NCPR. Mohawk Council Signs Land Claim Deal, But Divisions Remain. December 2024. <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/50938/20241213/mohawk-council-signs-land-claim-deal-but-divisions-remain>.

⁴⁴ Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Mohawk Council Signs NY State Land Claim Settlement Agreement. January 2025. <http://www.akwesasne.ca/mohawk-council-signs-ny-state-land-claim-settlement-agreement%EF%BF%BC/>.

negotiated terms that resolved long-standing concerns amongst the parties. Specifically, the SRMT receives approximately 3,500 acres of land returned to reservation status, including the Hogansburg Triangle, and can acquire, from willing sellers, up to 14,000 additional acres. Tuition and mandatory fees are waived for all Akwesasne Mohawk students attending a State University of New York institution. SRMT will acquire 9 megawatts of power from NYPA at a preferred rate. Additionally, the settlement does not require federal monetary contribution, the SRMT will adhere to all New York State building codes, and there are clear boundaries for the SRMT's reservation regarding judicial jurisdiction with a forum for disagreement resolution through discussion rather than the court system.⁴⁵

Negotiated settlements related to Indian land claims under the Non-Intercourse Act require congressional approval, in this case through the legislative process.⁴⁶ H.R. 2916 would authorize, ratify, and confirm the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement and bring reconciliation after four decades of uncertainty.

H.R. 3620 (Rep. Begich), “Southcentral Foundation Land Transfer Act of 2025”

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is the Alaska Native tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and eleven federally-recognized tribes (Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna) to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service (IHS) under a 638 compact.⁴⁷

SCF, operating as a nonprofit, was incorporated in 1982.⁴⁸ Its first 638 compact, formalized shortly thereafter, provided dentistry, optometry, community health representatives, and injury control services.⁴⁹ Substance abuse treatment services were added to the compact in 1987.⁵⁰ By 1994, SCF had also contracted to provide psychiatric services, pediatrics, family medicine, a women's clinic, and social services.⁵¹ In 1998, SCF acquired ownership and management of programs located in the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center (PCC) at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC).⁵² In January 1999, SCF and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) signed an agreement for “co-management of IHS programs on the Alaska

⁴⁵ Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York. On file. The Office of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. Stefanik Introduces Legislation Ratifying the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement. April 2025. <https://stefanik.house.gov/2025/4/stefanik-introduces-legislation-ratifying-the-akwesasne-mohawk-land-claim-settlement-agreement>.

⁴⁶ 25 U.S.C. §177.

⁴⁷ Testimony of Dr. Donna Galbreath, Senior Medical Director, Southcentral Foundation, Before the H. Appropriations Subcomm. on Interior, Env't & Related Agencies, 118th Cong. (Mar. 9, 2023) (statement of Dr. Donna Galbreath), <https://www.congress.gov/118/meeting/house/115465/documents/HHRG-118-AP06-Wstate-GalbreathD-20230309.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Anchorage Native News. Southcentral Foundation celebrates 25 years of family wellness. Jan. 2007. <https://www.southcentralfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/01-JanFeb.pdf>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

Native Health Campus, the location of the ANMC, the PCC, SCF's main administration building, and several other facilities.”⁵³

Today, SCF employs over 2,700 people across 60 programs and serves approximately 73,000 Alaska Native and American Indians living in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and 55 rural Alaskan villages.⁵⁴

H.R. 3620 would transfer ownership of an approximately 3.4-acre parcel of federal land in Anchorage, Alaska, to SCF for providing health and social services programs.⁵⁵ This transfer would allow SCF to modernize and replace the facilities on the lot.⁵⁶ This parcel was previously used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but the federal government has allowed SCF to operate on the premises since 1994, when the CDC relocated its offices to the ANMC campus. Since then, SCF has operated behavioral health services on the property. Most recently, SCF has operated the Quyana Clubhouse, an intensive behavioral health program, on the premises. Without title ownership, however, SCF has been limited in its ability to replace or improve the facility.

SCF has worked with IHS and the Municipality of Anchorage to rezone the land, so the project can commence construction should the legislation be enacted. The 3.4-acre parcel, which encompasses the Quyana Clubhouse, was rezoned to B-2C – Central Business District, Periphery – a commercial/mixed-use category. This re-zoning provides SCF with greater flexibility to replace or expand existing structures in a manner compatible with surrounding downtown land uses. This pre-emptive rezoning demonstrates that there should be minimal zoning obstacles should the federal land become SCF property.

H.R. 3620 authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convey the property to SCF. The bill includes environmental liability protection for SCF and nullifies any prior permits or quitclaim deeds. Once title is transferred, SCF plans to construct a new, modern behavioral health facility to replace the Quyana Clubhouse to continue serving individuals with serious mental illness.

H.R. 3670 (Rep. Stansbury), “IHS Provider Expansion Act”

H.R. 3670, the IHS Provider Expansion Act, seeks to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) to create a new, permanent program for graduate medical education (GME) within the IHS. The office would serve as a central hub to oversee residency and fellowship training programs, coordinate with academic institutions and establish medical student pipelines, and work with an interagency group (consisting of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Department of Labor) to support development and sustainability.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ Southcentral Foundation History Document provided by SCF to IIA Staff. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/SCF_Background.pdf.

⁵⁵ H.R. 3620, 119th Cong. 2025.

⁵⁶ Discussion between SCF Staff and IIA Staff. June 3, 2025.

Currently, IHS does not have a formal infrastructure for hosting medical residences. It also does not receive any funding for GME programs.⁵⁷ According to outreach conducted by Congressional Research Service staff, if H.R. 3670 were enacted, the appropriations for the Office of Graduate Medical Education would need to grow exponentially to make the program work.⁵⁸ Additionally, H.R. 3670 would expand federal government operations and creates an un-offset authorization of appropriation which does not comply with Republican floor protocols.

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION

[H.R. 411 \(Rep. Bergman\), “Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Land Claim Settlement Act of 2025”](#)

Section 5. *Payments*. This section authorizes a \$33.9 million payment from the Secretary of the Interior to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community as soon as practicable. The funds can be used for any lawful purpose, excluding the acquisition of land for gaming purposes.

Section 6. *Extinguishment of Claims*. Upon receipt of payment, KBIC’s claims to Reservation Swamp Lands and the Reservation Canal Lands owned by persons or entities other than KBIC are extinguished.

Section 7. *Effect*. This section clarifies that the Act does not authorize the Secretary to take land into trust for KBIC for gaming purposes, nor allow KBIC to use any land acquired with the funds for gaming purposes.

[H.R. 2916 \(Rep. Stefanik\), To authorize, ratify, and confirm the Agreement of Settlement and Compromise to Resolve the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim in the State of New York, and for other purposes.](#)

Section 1. *Agreement and Transfers Authorized, Ratified and Confirmed*. This section would authorize, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the State of New York, the Counties of Franklin and Saint Lawrence in New York, the Towns of Fort Covington and Bombay in New York, and the New York Power Authority. Additionally, any land, right-of-way, or easement transfers noted in the relevant court cases are also authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

Section 2. *Lands Owned by Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Within Settlement Acquisition Areas*. This section would recognize any land owned or acquired by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, within the Settlement Acquisition Areas, as “Indian Country” as defined in section 1151(a) of title 18, United States Code.

⁵⁷ Nat’l Council of Urb. Indian Health. Jeremy Grabiner. NCUIH Signs Partners in Health and Association of Indian Physicians Letter Requesting \$30 Million to Address Chronic Clinical Staff Shortages in Indian Country. <https://ncuih.org/2024/04/17/ncuih-signs-partners-in-health-and-association-of-indian-physicians-letter-requesting-30-million-to-address-chronic-clinical-staff-shortages-in-indian-country/>. Apr. 2024.

⁵⁸ Discussion with CRS and IIA Staff. June 2, 2025.

H.R. 3620 (Rep. Begich), “Southcentral Foundation Land Transfer Act of 2025”

Section 3. *Conveyance of Property to SCF.* This section describes the property to be conveyed to SCF. It also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convey that property to SCF for use in connection with the health and social services program within two years of enactment.

Section 4. *Conditions of Conveyance.* This section outlines the terms under which the conveyance will occur. The conveyance is to be made by warranty deed, which would supersede any quitclaim deed to the property. The conveyance must also be made without consideration and with no reversionary interest. The Secretary may retain access to the property if needed to satisfy retained federal obligations.

Section 5. *Environmental Liability.* This section stipulates that SCF will not be held liable for environmental contamination, defined per applicable federal and Alaskan law, that occurred on the transferred property prior to the conveyance date. Conversely, the Secretary will not be held liable for environmental contamination on the conveyed property after conveyance.

H.R. 3670 (Rep. Stansbury), “IHS Provider Expansion Act”

Section 2. *Indian Health Service Office of Graduate Medical Education Programs.* This section authorizes \$4 million annually, beginning in fiscal year 2027, to create an Office of Graduate Medical Education Programs within IHS. It also amends the IHCA to establish this office to oversee IHS facilities' current residency and fellowship programs. Additionally, the section establishes an interagency working group to support the implementation and long-term sustainability of the Office. This working group terminates 10 years after enactment. The working group is required to submit reports to Congress every three months, starting 120 days after enactment.

V. CBO COST ESTIMATE

A formal cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is not yet available for any of the bills.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The administration's position is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

H.R. 3670 (Rep. Stansbury), “IHS Provider Expansion Act”