

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2019

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF  
REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) MICHAEL D. WEAHKEE AS DIRECTOR OF INDIAN HEALTH  
SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS:


- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'íyáti' Committee to recommend to the United States departments and agencies the appointment of individuals who will fulfill the requirements of their office and serve the interests of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701 (A) (9).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- C. RADM Michael D. Weahkee has been *Acting* Director of the Indian Health Services under the Donald Trump administration; during that time, RADM Weahkee has been receptive to working with the Navajo Nation on health care issues affecting the Navajo populace.
- D. As set forth in **Exhibit A**, RADM Weahkee is well-qualified to serve as the Director of Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and it will serve the interests of the Navajo Nation to have him appointed to that position.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the appointment of RADM Michael D. Weahkee as Director of the Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
  
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the appointment of RADM Michael D. Weahkee as Director of the Indian Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 13 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

12/27/19

Motion: Honorable Carl Slater  
Second: Honorable Nathaniel Brown

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

## Biography

Michael D. Weahkee was born in the Shiprock Hospital on the Navajo reservation, an enrolled member of the [Zuni Native American](#) tribe. He served in the [US Air Force](#) as a health care specialist after attending Arizona State University and Southern Illinois University, and he later became CEO of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. Under President [Donald Trump](#), he was appointed acting director of the Indian Health Service.

Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee, an enrolled member of the Zuni Tribe, is the Principal Deputy Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The IHS is the principal federal health care advocate and provider of health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As Principal Deputy Director, RADM Weahkee administers a nationwide health care delivery program that is responsible for providing preventive, curative, and community health care for approximately 2.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in hospitals, clinics, and other settings throughout the United States.

RADM Weahkee previously served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, the largest federally-operated facility in the Indian Health Service. He was born in the Shiprock Public Health Service Hospital on the Navajo reservation and grew up as a direct service user of the IHS. Michael began his professional health care career in the United States Air Force, as a Public Health Specialist. After completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Management from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, he left the Air Force to pursue advanced hospital administration training, receiving both his Master of Health Services Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

RADM Weahkee has also served in a variety of different roles at IHS Headquarters, including: Executive Officer for the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services; Director of the Management Policy and Internal Control Staff office; and, as the Deputy Director for Personnel Functions in the Office of Management Services, charged with management oversight of Human Resources, Commissioned Personnel Support and Program Integrity and Ethics for the Agency. RADM Weahkee also served on memorandum of agreement to the California Rural Indian Health Board, both as the director of family and community health services and as deputy director of the health board.

Michael has received several public health service honors and awards, including an Exceptional Proficiency Promotion to the rank of Captain, two Outstanding Service Medals, and two IHS National Director's Awards.

NAVAJO NATION

375

12/12/2019

Naa'bik'iyati Committee Meeting

01:25:34 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Consent Agenda: Legislations

PASSED

MOT Slater, C

0322-19; 0361-19; 0363-19;

SEC Brown

0364-19; 0365-19; 0326-19;

0353-19; 0354-19; 0355-19...

Yea : 13

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 10

Yea : 13

Begay, E

Halona, P

Tso, C

Tso, O

Begay, P

Henio, J

Tso, D

Walker, T

Brown

Slater, C

Tso, E

Yellowhair

Charles-Newton

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 10

Begay, K

Freeland, M

Smith

Wauneka, E

Crotty

James, V

Stewart, W

Yazzie

Daniels

Nez, R

Presiding Chair: Damon