



**Remarks for RADM Weahkee
Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee Meeting
May 21, 2018 | 3:00 p.m. EDT | By telephone**

Remarks as prepared

Good afternoon. I'm happy to talk to you all again.

I want to begin by thanking all you for your continued efforts and hard work. The **Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee** continues to positively impact our Native patients and communities across the nation. I appreciate your dedication to supporting the IHS mission of raising the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. Our partnerships and relationships with tribes, tribal and urban Indian organizations are critical to our success.

I especially want to thank you for your efforts on the recent Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer regarding the Special Diabetes Program for Indians Fiscal Year 2019 funding distribution. Tribal consultation, as well as committee meetings like this one, provide opportunities to renew and strengthen partnerships and discuss issues on a government-to-government basis.

I did receive several requests for extension of the comment period. I approved a short extension, thank you for understanding that we want to allow as much time as possible for SDPI grantees to complete their FY 2019 applications. I look

forward to hearing your recommendations today, and we will keep them in mind as we make the final decisions regarding the SDPI FY 2019 funding distribution.

Diabetes prevention and treatment continues to be one of the highest priorities at the Indian Health Service, and these efforts could not be accomplished without the valuable input that this committee has put forth.

I would like to express my heart-felt appreciation for the work that you all do for the Native communities you serve. Our ongoing success is due to our strong partnership and your commitment to improving health care for Native patients and community's nationwide.

We all know the positive outcomes in American Indian and Alaska Native communities because of SDPI. Communicating that message is necessary to provide future support for the grant program. Many of the SDPI programs are successful and are working to prevent and treat diabetes in both adults and children. I hope that SDPI will continue to be funded into the future and look forward to working with you on the SDPI FY 2021-2025 grant cycle.

I also want to take a moment to thank, **Dr. Bullock**, and the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention team for organizing this meeting and the great work they do to strengthen clinical, public health, and community approaches to diabetes treatment and prevention in Indian Country. You are making a real difference.

I look forward to our discussions here today. Thank you.