



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN PHYSICIANS

1225 Sovereign Row, Suite 103
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Tel: (405) 946-7072
Fax: (405) 946-7651

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January 13, 2021

RADM Michael D. Weahkee
Director, Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear RADM Weahkee:

The Association of American Indian Physicians recently were alerted of your resignation as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) effective January 20, 2021. On behalf of the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP), allow me to personally express our sincere gratitude by saying 'thank you' for your leadership, dedication, commitment and service over the years serving as Principal Deputy Director, Acting Director and finally as Director of IHS.

AAIP shall remain appreciative of our relationship with you during these years of service as both worked toward raising the physical, mental, social and spiritual health status of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities to the highest level.

AAIP is grateful that under your leadership, we were able to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our organizations for addressing issues such as the recruitment and retention of American Indian physicians and health care professionals and much more. Your knowledge of the issues affecting the health status of AI/AN and the difficult task of administering such a complex health system is without peer. The current situation with the COVID 19 pandemic has also presented many new challenges for AI/AN communities and uncertainty for the future of our people. Unprecedented funding levels were achieved during your tenure for accelerating services to AI/AN.

AAIP certainly wish you well on your future endeavors and success as you move forward in your professional career.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Owen, MD, President
Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP)