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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.**

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To elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STANTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2       tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Stronger Engagement  
5       for Indian Health Needs Act of 2022”.

**1 SEC. 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN HEALTH.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 601(a) of the Indian  
3 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(a)) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “tribes” and  
6 inserting “Tribes”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) by striking “a Director” and inserting  
9 “an Assistant Secretary for Indian Health (in  
10 this section referred to as the ‘Assistant Sec-  
11 retary’);

12 (B) by striking “The Director shall report”  
13 and inserting “The Assistant Secretary shall re-  
14 port directly”;

15 (C) by striking “the Director” and insert-  
16 ing “the Assistant Secretary”; and

17 (D) by striking “A Director” and inserting  
18 “An Assistant Secretary”;

19 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “date of en-  
20 actment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Re-  
21 authorization and Extension Act of 2009 shall serve  
22 as Director” and inserting “date of enactment of the  
23 Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act  
24 of 2022 shall serve as Assistant Secretary”;

4 (5) by adding at the end the following new  
5 paragraph:

6       “(5) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The As-  
7       sistant Secretary, with the approval of the Secretary,  
8       may appoint a Deputy Assistant Secretary and may  
9       employ and prescribe the functions of such officers  
10      and employees, including attorneys, as are necessary  
11      to administer the activities of the Service.”.

12 (b) DUTIES.—Section 601(c) of the Indian Health  
13 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(c)) is amended—

22 (c) AUTHORITY.—Section 601(d)(1) of the Indian  
23 Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(d)(1)) is  
24 amended in the matter before subparagraph (A), by strik-  
25 ing “Director” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”.

1       (d) REFERENCES.—Section 601 of the Indian Health  
2 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661) is amended by  
3 adding at the end the following new subsection:

4       “(e) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Director of  
5 the Indian Health Service in any other Federal law, Exec-  
6 utive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or  
7 in any document of or relating to the Director of the In-  
8 dian Health Service, shall be deemed to refer to the Assis-  
9 tant Secretary.”.

10      (e) RATE OF BASIC PAY.—

11       (1) POSITIONS AT LEVEL IV.—Section 5315 of  
12 title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking  
13 “Assistant Secretaries of Health and Human Serv-  
14 ices (6)” and inserting “Assistant Secretaries of  
15 Health and Human Services (7)”.

16       (2) POSITIONS AT LEVEL V.—Section 5316 of  
17 title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking  
18 “Director, Indian Health Service, Department of  
19 Health and Human Services.”.