117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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”.

(Original Signature of Member)
SEC. 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN HEALTH.

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

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

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “a Director” and inserting “an Assistant Secretary for Indian Health (in this section referred to as the ‘Assistant Secretary’)”; 

(B) by striking “The Director shall report” and inserting “The Assistant Secretary shall report directly”;

(C) by striking “the Director” and inserting “the Assistant Secretary”; and

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

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “date of enactment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Re-authorization and Extension Act of 2009 shall serve as Director” and inserting “date of enactment of the Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act of 2022 shall serve as Assistant Secretary”;
(4) in paragraph (4), in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “Director” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”; and

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

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

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

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “Director” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “date of enactment of the Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act of 2009” and inserting “date of enactment of the Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act of 2022”.

(c) AUTHORITY.—Section 601(d)(1) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661(d)(1)) is amended in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking “Director” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”.
(d) REFERENCES.—Section 601 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Director of the Indian Health Service in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or in any document of or relating to the Director of the Indian Health Service, shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary.”.

(e) RATE OF BASIC PAY.—

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

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