

# [Senate Indian Affairs Announces Hearing for this Wednesday on COVID-19 Impacts in Indian Country and Consideration of the NCUIH Bill to Expand Resources for Urban Indian Health](#)

Category: Policy Blog

written by NCUIH | June 30, 2020

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee will host an oversight and legislative hearing on S. 3650 on Wednesday, July 1 at 2:30pm in 562 Dirksen. The oversight hearing will cover “Evaluating the Response and Mitigation to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Native Communities”.

The Committee will consider recently introduced bipartisan legislation (S. 3650) to expand Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) coverage to urban Indian organizations, giving them a desperately needed boost in resources as many suffer critical supply shortages, closures, and financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act (S.3650), would amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to create parity within the Indian Health System. This is a companion bill to H.R. 6535, introduced on April 17, 2020 by Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK).

NCUIH has been advocating for swift passage of the FTCA fix (S. 3650 / H.R. 6535) for urban Indian organizations, which will free up thousands of dollars for patient care.

## **WITNESSES:**

### Panel I

- **THE HONORABLE RADM MICHAEL D. WEAHKEE**, Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD
- **MR. ROBERT J. FENTON, JR.**, Regional Administrator, Region 9, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC

### Panel II

- **MR. SCOTT DAVIS**, Executive Director, North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, Office of the Governor, State of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND
- **MS. LISA ELGIN**, Secretary, National Indian Health Board, Washington, DC (*Virtual Witness*)

<https://www.indian.senate.gov/hearing/oversight-hearing-evaluating-response-and-mitigation-covid-19-pandemic-native-communities>