

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1250

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. HOEVEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, 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 “Restoring Account-  
5       ability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017”.

6       **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7       The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

- Sec. 101. Incentives for recruitment and retention.
- Sec. 102. Medical credentialing system.
- Sec. 103. Liability protections for health professional volunteers at Indian Health Service.
- Sec. 104. Clarification regarding eligibility for Indian Health Service loan repayment program.
- Sec. 105. Improvements in hiring practices.
- Sec. 106. Removal or demotion of Indian Health Service employees based on performance or misconduct.
- Sec. 107. Standards to improve timeliness of care.
- Sec. 108. Tribal culture and history.
- Sec. 109. Staffing demonstration project.
- Sec. 110. Rule establishing tribal consultation policy.

TITLE II—EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS

- Sec. 201. Right of Federal employees to petition Congress.
- Sec. 202. Fiscal accountability.

TITLE III—REPORTS

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Sec. 302. Reports by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Sec. 303. Reports by the Comptroller General.
- Sec. 304. Inspector General reports.
- Sec. 305. Transparency in CMS surveys.

TITLE IV—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 401. Technical amendments.

1           **TITLE I—INDIAN HEALTH**  
 2           **SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

3 **SEC. 101. INCENTIVES FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETEN-**  
 4                                   **TION.**

5           Title I of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
 6 (25 U.S.C. 1611 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 7 the following:

1 **“SEC. 125. INCENTIVES FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETEN-**  
2 **TION.**

3 “(a) **PARITY IN PAY.**—The Secretary shall establish  
4 a pay system for physicians, dentists, nurses, and other  
5 health care professionals employed by the Service that pro-  
6 vides pay that, to the maximum extent practicable, is com-  
7 parable to the pay provided to physicians, dentists, nurses,  
8 and other health care professionals, respectively, under  
9 subchapters III and IV of chapter 74 of title 38, United  
10 States Code.

11 “(b) **RELOCATION COSTS.**—The Secretary may pro-  
12 vide to an employee of the Service reimbursement for any  
13 relocation costs the employee incurs if—

14 “(1) the employee relocates to a Service area  
15 experiencing a high level of need for employees, as  
16 determined by the Secretary; and

17 “(2) the employee is filling a position that  
18 would otherwise be difficult to fill, as determined by  
19 the Secretary, in the absence of an incentive.

20 “(c) **HOUSING VOUCHERS.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2),  
22 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of  
23 the Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health  
24 Service Act of 2017, the Secretary may establish a  
25 program to provide tenant-based rental assistance to  
26 an employee of the Service who—

1           “(A) agrees to serve for not less than 1  
2           year at a Service unit designated by the Admin-  
3           istrator of the Health Resources and Services  
4           Administration as a health professional short-  
5           age area, as defined in section 332(a) of the  
6           Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a));  
7           and

8           “(B) is a critical employee, as determined  
9           by the Secretary.

10          “(2) SUNSET.—Any program established by the  
11          Secretary under paragraph (1) shall terminate on  
12          the date that is 3 years after the date on which any  
13          such program is established.

14          “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

15          “(1) OPM GUIDELINES.—The Secretary shall  
16          carry out this section in accordance with any guide-  
17          lines of the Office of Personnel Management relating  
18          to the recruitment and retention of employees, in-  
19          cluding section 575.109 of title 5, Code of Federal  
20          Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment  
21          of the Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health  
22          Service Act of 2017).

23          “(2) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
24          may only provide reimbursement for any relocation

1 costs under subsection (b) or any other benefit  
2 under subsection (c) to—

3 “(A) a full-time employee who agrees to  
4 serve for not less than 1 year in the Service, be-  
5 ginning on the date of the agreement; or

6 “(B) a part-time employee who agrees to  
7 serve for not less than 2 years in the service be-  
8 ginning on the date of the agreement.”.

9 **SEC. 102. MEDICAL CREDENTIALING SYSTEM.**

10 Title I of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
11 (25 U.S.C. 1611 et seq.), as amended by section 101, is  
12 further amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 126. MEDICAL CREDENTIALING SYSTEM.**

14 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—By not later than 1 year after  
15 the date of enactment of the Restoring Accountability in  
16 the Indian Health Service Act of 2017, the Secretary, act-  
17 ing through the Service and in accordance with the re-  
18 quirements described in subsection (b), shall develop and  
19 implement a Service-wide centralized credentialing system  
20 (referred to in this section as the ‘credentialing system’)  
21 to credential licensed health professionals who seek to pro-  
22 vide health care services at any Service unit.

23 “(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In developing the  
24 credentialing system under subsection (a), the Secretary  
25 shall ensure the following:

1           “(1) Credentialing procedures shall be uniform  
2 throughout the Service.

3           “(2) With respect to each licensed health pro-  
4 fessional who successfully completes the  
5 credentialing procedures of the credentialing system,  
6 the Secretary shall authorize each such professional  
7 to provide health care services at any Service unit.

8           “(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the  
9 credentialing system under subsection (a), the Secretary  
10 shall consult with Indian tribes and may also consult with  
11 any public or private association of medical providers, any  
12 government agency, or other relevant expert, as deter-  
13 mined by the Secretary.

14           “(d) APPLICATION.—A licensed health care profes-  
15 sional may not provide health care services at any Service  
16 unit, unless such professional successfully completes the  
17 credentialing procedures of the credentialing system devel-  
18 oped under subsection (a).

19           “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe  
20 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the pro-  
21 visions of this section.

22           “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section may  
23 not be construed to inhibit the authority of an Indian tribe  
24 to enter into or maintain a compact or contract under the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act  
2 (25 U.S.C. 5304 et seq.).”.

3 **SEC. 103. LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH PROFES-**  
4 **SIONAL VOLUNTEERS AT INDIAN HEALTH**  
5 **SERVICE.**

6 Section 224 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 233) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(r) CERTAIN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE VOLUN-  
10 TEERS DEEMED PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE EMPLOY-  
11 EES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-  
13 tion, a health professional volunteer at a Service  
14 unit shall, in providing a health service to an indi-  
15 vidual, be deemed to be an employee of the Public  
16 Health Service for a calendar year that begins dur-  
17 ing a fiscal year for which a transfer was made  
18 under paragraph (4)(C). The preceding sentence is  
19 subject to the provisions of this subsection.

20 “(2) CONDITIONS.—In providing a health serv-  
21 ice to an individual, a health care practitioner shall,  
22 for purposes of this subsection, be considered to be  
23 a health professional volunteer at a Service unit if  
24 all of the following conditions are met:

1           “(A) The service is provided to the indi-  
2           vidual at the facilities of a Service unit, or  
3           through offsite programs or events carried out  
4           by the Service unit.

5           “(B) The Service unit is sponsoring the  
6           health care practitioner pursuant to paragraph  
7           (3)(C).

8           “(C) The health care practitioner does not  
9           receive any compensation for the service from  
10          the individual, the Service unit, or any third-  
11          party payer (including reimbursement under  
12          any insurance policy or health plan, or under  
13          any Federal or State health benefits program),  
14          except that the health care practitioner may re-  
15          ceive repayment from the Service unit for rea-  
16          sonable expenses incurred by the health care  
17          practitioner in the provision of the service to  
18          the individual.

19          “(D) Before the service is provided, the  
20          health care practitioner or the Service unit  
21          posts a clear and conspicuous notice at the site  
22          where the service is provided of the extent to  
23          which the legal liability of the health care prac-  
24          titioner is limited under this subsection.



1           “(E) At the time the service is provided,  
2           the health care practitioner is licensed or cer-  
3           tified in accordance with applicable law regard-  
4           ing the provision of the service.

5           “(3) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (g) (other  
6           than paragraphs (3) and (5)) and subsections (h),  
7           (i), and (l) apply to a health care practitioner at a  
8           Service unit for purposes of this subsection to the  
9           same extent and in the same manner as such sub-  
10          sections apply to an officer, governing board mem-  
11          ber, employee, or contractor of an entity described in  
12          subsection (g)(4), subject to paragraph (4) and sub-  
13          ject to the following subparagraphs:

14           “(A) Each reference to an entity in sub-  
15           sections (g), (h), (i), and (l) shall be considered  
16           to be a reference to a Service unit.

17           “(B) The first sentence of paragraph (1)  
18           applies in lieu of the first sentence of subsection  
19           (g)(1)(A).

20           “(C) With respect to a Service unit, a  
21           health care practitioner is not a health profes-  
22           sional volunteer at the Service unit unless the  
23           Service unit sponsors the health care practi-  
24           tioner. For purposes of this subsection, the

1 Service unit shall be considered to be spon-  
2 soring the health care practitioner if—

3 “(i) with respect to the health care  
4 practitioner, the Service unit submits to  
5 the Secretary an application meeting the  
6 requirements of subsection (g)(1)(D); and

7 “(ii) the Secretary, pursuant to sub-  
8 section (g)(1)(E), determines that the  
9 health care practitioner is deemed to be an  
10 employee of the Public Health Service.

11 “(D) In the case of a health care practi-  
12 tioner who is determined by the Secretary pur-  
13 suant to this subsection and subsection  
14 (g)(1)(E) to be a health professional volunteer,  
15 this subsection applies to the health care practi-  
16 tioner (with respect to services performed on  
17 behalf of the Service unit sponsoring the health  
18 care practitioner pursuant to subparagraph (C))  
19 for any cause of action arising from an act or  
20 omission of the health care practitioner occur-  
21 ring on or after the date on which the Secretary  
22 makes that determination.

23 “(E) Subsection (g)(1)(F) applies to a  
24 health care practitioner for purposes of this  
25 subsection only to the extent that, in providing

1 health services to an individual, each of the con-  
2 ditions described in paragraph (2) is met.

3 “(4) FUNDING.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the fund  
5 established under subsection (k)(2) shall be  
6 available for transfer under subparagraph (C)  
7 for purposes of carrying out this subsection.

8 “(B) ANNUAL ESTIMATES.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than  
10 May 1 of each fiscal year, the Attorney  
11 General, in consultation with the Sec-  
12 retary, shall submit to Congress a report  
13 providing an estimate of the amount of  
14 claims (together with related fees and ex-  
15 penses of witnesses) that, by reason of the  
16 acts or omissions of health professional  
17 volunteers, will be paid pursuant to this  
18 section during the calendar year that be-  
19 gins in the following fiscal year.

20 “(ii) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection  
21 (k)(1)(B) applies to the estimate under  
22 clause (i) relating to health professional  
23 volunteers to the same extent and in the  
24 same manner as that subsection applies to  
25 the estimate under that subsection relating

1 to officers, governing board members, em-  
2 ployees, and contractors of entities de-  
3 scribed in subsection (g)(4).

4 “(C) TRANSFERS.—Not later than Decem-  
5 ber 31 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall  
6 transfer from the fund under subsection (k)(2)  
7 to the appropriate accounts in the Treasury an  
8 amount equal to the estimate made under sub-  
9 paragraph (B) for the calendar year beginning  
10 in that fiscal year, subject to the extent of  
11 amounts in the fund.

12 “(5) DEFINITION OF SERVICE UNIT.—In this  
13 subsection, the term ‘Service unit’ has the meaning  
14 given the term in section 4 of the Indian Health  
15 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

16 “(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
17 this subsection shall be construed to inhibit the au-  
18 thority of an Indian tribe to enter into or maintain  
19 a compact or contract under the Indian Self-Deter-  
20 mination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
21 5304 et seq.).

22 “(7) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
24 subparagraph (B), this subsection shall take ef-  
25 fect on October 1, 2019.

1           “(B) REGULATIONS, APPLICATIONS, AND  
2           REPORTS.—Effective on the date of the enact-  
3           ment of the Restoring Accountability in the In-  
4           dian Health Service Act of 2017, the Secretary  
5           may—

6                   “(i) prescribe regulations for carrying  
7                   out this subsection; and

8                   “(ii) accept and consider applications  
9                   submitted under paragraph (3)(C)(i).”.

10 **SEC. 104. CLARIFICATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR IN-**  
11 **DIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT**  
12 **PROGRAM.**

13           Section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement  
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a) is amended—

15           (1) by amending subparagraph (B) of sub-  
16 section (b)(1) to read as follows:

17                   “(B) have—

18                           “(i)(I) a degree in a health profession;

19                           and

20                           “(II) a license to practice a health  
21 profession in a State; or

22                           “(ii)(I) a degree in business adminis-  
23 tration with an emphasis in health care  
24 management (as defined by the Secretary),

1 health administration, hospital administra-  
2 tion, or public health; and

3 “(II) a license or certification to prac-  
4 tice in the field of business administration,  
5 health administration, hospital administra-  
6 tion, or public health in a State, if the Sec-  
7 retary determines such license or certifi-  
8 cation necessary for the Indian health pro-  
9 gram to which the individual will be as-  
10 signed;”;

11 (2) by amending clause (iii) of subsection  
12 (f)(1)(B) to read as follows:

13 “(iii) to serve for a time period (re-  
14 ferred to in this section as the ‘period of  
15 obligated service’) equal to—

16 “(I) 2 years or such longer pe-  
17 riod as the individual may agree to  
18 serve in the full-time practice of such  
19 individual’s profession in an Indian  
20 health program to which the indi-  
21 vidual may be assigned by the Sec-  
22 retary; or

23 “(II) 4 years or such longer pe-  
24 riod as the individual may agree to  
25 serve in the half-time practice of such

1 individual's profession in an Indian  
2 health program to which the indi-  
3 vidual may be assigned by the Sec-  
4 retary;"; and

5 (3) in subsection (g)(2)—

6 (A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as  
7 subparagraph (C); and

8 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (i) by striking the first sentence of the  
10 matter preceding clause (i) and inserting  
11 the following: "In the case of an individual  
12 who contracts to serve a period of obli-  
13 gated service under subsection  
14 (f)(1)(B)(iii)(I), for each year of such obli-  
15 gated service, the Secretary may pay up to  
16 \$35,000 (or an amount equal to the  
17 amount specified in section 338B(g)(2)(A)  
18 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 2541-1(g)(2)(A))) on behalf of the  
20 individual for loans described in paragraph  
21 (1). In the case of an individual who con-  
22 tracts to serve a period of obligated service  
23 under subsection (f)(1)(B)(iii)(II), for each  
24 year of such obligated service, the Sec-  
25 retary may pay up to \$17,500 on behalf of

1 the individual for loans described in para-  
2 graph (1)”; and

3 (ii) by striking “In making a deter-  
4 mination” and inserting the following:

5 “(B) In making a determination under this  
6 paragraph”.

7 **SEC. 105. IMPROVEMENTS IN HIRING PRACTICES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Indian Health  
9 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661 et seq.) is amend-  
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 605. IMPROVEMENTS IN HIRING PRACTICES.**

12 “(a) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may  
13 appoint, without regard to subchapter I of chapter 33 of  
14 title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and  
15 3328 of such title), a candidate directly to a position with-  
16 in the Service for which the candidate meets the job de-  
17 scription of the Office of Personnel Management.

18 “(b) TRIBAL NOTIFICATION.—Before appointing,  
19 hiring, promoting, transferring, or reassigning a candidate  
20 to a Senior Executive Service position or the position of  
21 a manager at an Area office or Service unit, the Secretary  
22 shall provide notice to each Indian tribe located within the  
23 defined geographic area of such Area office or Service  
24 unit, as the case may be, of the content of an inclusion  
25 in an employment record under section 606(j).”.



1 (b) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 2 of the  
2 Act of December 15, 1979 (25 U.S.C. 5117), is amended  
3 by adding the following:

4 “(3) IHS WAIVERS.—The Secretary of Health  
5 and Human Services shall seek from each Indian  
6 tribe concerned, a waiver of Indian preference laws  
7 for a personnel action that is with respect to—

8 “(A) an Indian Health Service unit in  
9 which 20 percent or more of the positions in the  
10 Service unit are not filled by a full-time em-  
11 ployee of the Indian Health Service for a period  
12 of 6 months or longer; or

13 “(B) a former employee of the Indian  
14 Health Service or a formal tribal employee who  
15 was removed from such former employment  
16 within, or demoted for performance or mis-  
17 conduct that occurred during, the 5-year period  
18 the date of such personnel action.”.

19 **SEC. 106. REMOVAL OR DEMOTION OF INDIAN HEALTH**  
20 **SERVICE EMPLOYEES BASED ON PERFORM-**  
21 **ANCE OR MISCONDUCT.**

22 Title VI of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
23 (25 U.S.C. 1661 et seq.), as amended by section 105, is  
24 further amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 606. REMOVAL OR DEMOTION OF SERVICE EMPLOY-**  
2 **EES BASED ON PERFORMANCE OR MIS-**  
3 **CONDUCT.**

4 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and section 607:

5 “(1) EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘employee’ has the  
6 meaning given the term in section 2105 of title 5,  
7 United States Code.

8 “(2) MANAGER.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘manager’  
10 has the meaning given the term ‘management  
11 official’ in section 7103(a) of title 5, United  
12 States Code.

13 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘manager’  
14 includes, as employed at any facility of the  
15 Service—

16 “(i) a chief executive officer;

17 “(ii) a chief medical officer; and

18 “(iii) a department director.

19 “(3) MISCONDUCT.—The term ‘misconduct’  
20 means neglect of duty, malfeasance, or failure to ac-  
21 cept a directed reassignment or to accompany a po-  
22 sition in a transfer of function.

23 “(4) PERSONNEL ACTION.—The term ‘per-  
24 sonnel action’ means a removal, transfer, or reduc-  
25 tion in grade under subsection (b)(2).

1           “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
2           the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting  
3           through the Director of the Service.

4           “(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE.—The term ‘senior ex-  
5           ecutive’ means a career appointee (as that term is  
6           defined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States  
7           Code).

8           “(7) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE POSITION.—  
9           The term ‘Senior Executive Service position’ has the  
10          meaning given the term in section 3132(a) of title  
11          5, United States Code.

12          “(8) SUPERVISOR.—The term ‘supervisor’ has  
13          the meaning given the term in section 7103(a) of  
14          title 5, United States Code.

15          “(b) REMOVAL BASED ON PERFORMANCE OR MIS-  
16          CONDUCT.—

17                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (4),  
18                 the Secretary may remove an employee of the Serv-  
19                 ice from the position the employee occupies if the  
20                 Secretary determines the performance or misconduct  
21                 of the employee warrants removal.

22                 “(2) ACTION.—If the Secretary removes an em-  
23                 ployee under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

1           “(A) remove the employee from the civil  
2 service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5,  
3 United States Code);

4           “(B) in the case of an individual described  
5 in paragraph (3), transfer the individual from  
6 the Senior Executive Service position to a Gen-  
7 eral Schedule position at any grade of the Gen-  
8 eral Schedule for which the individual is quali-  
9 fied and that the Secretary determines is appro-  
10 priate; or

11           “(C) in the case of a manager or super-  
12 visor, reduce the grade of the manager or su-  
13 pervisor to any other grade for which the indi-  
14 vidual is qualified and that the Secretary deter-  
15 mines is appropriate.

16           “(3) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual  
17 referred to in paragraph (2)(B) is a senior executive  
18 that—

19           “(A) previously occupied a permanent posi-  
20 tion within the competitive service (as that term  
21 is defined in section 2102 of title 5, United  
22 States Code); or

23           “(B) previously occupied a permanent posi-  
24 tion within the excepted service (as that term is

1 defined in section 2103 of title 5, United States  
2 Code).

3 “(4) DUE PROCESS.—Before an employee may  
4 be subject to a personnel action, the Secretary shall  
5 provide to the employee—

6 “(A) not less than 10 days before the per-  
7 sonnel action, written notice of the proposed  
8 personnel action; and

9 “(B) an opportunity and reasonable time  
10 to answer orally or in writing.

11 “(c) PAY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
13 provision of law, including the requirements of sec-  
14 tion 3594 of title 5, United States Code, any indi-  
15 vidual transferred to a General Schedule position  
16 under subsection (b)(2)(B) or subject to a reduction  
17 in grade under subsection (b)(2)(C) shall, beginning  
18 on the date of the transfer, receive the annual rate  
19 of pay applicable to the position.

20 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual trans-  
22 ferred to a General Schedule position under  
23 subsection (b)(2)(B) or subject to a reduction  
24 in grade under subsection (b)(2)(C)—

1                   “(i) may not be placed on administra-  
2                   tive leave or any other category of paid  
3                   leave during the period during which an  
4                   appeal (if any) under subsection (e)(2)(A)  
5                   is ongoing; and

6                   “(ii) may only receive pay if the indi-  
7                   vidual—

8                                 “(I) reports for duty; and

9                                 “(II) performs a primary duty or  
10                                an alternative primary duty, as each  
11                                term is described in section 551.104  
12                                of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations  
13                                (or a successor regulation).

14                   “(B) FAILURE TO REPORT.—If an indi-  
15                   vidual transferred to a General Schedule posi-  
16                   tion under subsection (b)(2)(B) or subject to a  
17                   reduction in grade under subsection (b)(2)(C)  
18                   does not report for duty, pursuant to subsection  
19                   (f)(3)(B), the individual shall not receive any  
20                   increase in rate of pay or other benefit.

21                   “(d) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days  
22                   after the date on which the Secretary takes a personnel  
23                   action, the Secretary shall submit, in writing, a notice of  
24                   the personnel action and the reason for the personnel ac-  
25                   tion to—

1           “(1) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the  
2       Senate;

3           “(2) the Committee on Health, Education,  
4       Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

5           “(3) the Committee on Natural Resources of  
6       the House of Representatives;

7           “(4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce  
8       of the House of Representatives; and

9           “(5) the Inspector General of the Department.

10       “(e) PROCEDURE.—

11           “(1) INAPPLICABILITY.—The procedures under  
12       chapters 43 and 75 of title 5, United States Code,  
13       shall not apply to a personnel action.

14           “(2) APPEAL.—

15           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
16       graph (B) and subsection (f), an employee sub-  
17       ject to a personnel action may appeal the per-  
18       sonnel action to the Merit Systems Protection  
19       Board under section 7701 of title 5, United  
20       States Code.

21           “(B) LIMITATION.—An appeal under sub-  
22       paragraph (A) may only be made if the appeal  
23       is made not later than 7 days after the date of  
24       the personnel action.

1       “(f) EXPEDITED REVIEW BY ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
2 JUDGE.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—

4               “(A) REFERRAL.—On receipt of an appeal  
5 under subsection (e)(2)(A), the Merit Systems  
6 Protection Board shall refer the appeal to an  
7 administrative law judge pursuant to section  
8 7701(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

9               “(B) EXPEDITION.—The administrative  
10 law judge to whom an appeal is referred under  
11 subparagraph (A) shall—

12                   “(i) expedite the appeal under section  
13 7701(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code;  
14 and

15                   “(ii) issue a decision in each case not  
16 later than 21 days after the date of the ap-  
17 peal.

18           “(2) FINALITY.—Notwithstanding any other  
19 provision of law, including section 7703 of title 5,  
20 United States Code, the decision of an administra-  
21 tive law judge under paragraph (1) shall be final  
22 and shall not be subject to any further administra-  
23 tive appeal.

24           “(3) FAILURE TO ISSUE DECISION.—



1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which  
2 an administrative law judge fails to issue a de-  
3 cision in accordance with the 21-day require-  
4 ment described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), the per-  
5 sonnel action shall be treated as final.

6           “(B) TRANSPARENCY.—In any case in  
7 which a personnel action is treated as final  
8 under subparagraph (A), the Merit Systems  
9 Protection Board shall, not later than 14 days  
10 after the date on which the personnel action be-  
11 comes final, submit a letter explaining the rea-  
12 sons why a decision was not issued in accord-  
13 ance with the 21-day requirement described in  
14 paragraph (1)(B)(ii) to—

15                   “(i) the Committee on Indian Affairs  
16 of the Senate;

17                   “(ii) the Committee on Health, Edu-  
18 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

19                   “(iii) the Committee on Natural Re-  
20 sources of the House of Representatives;  
21 and

22                   “(iv) the Committee on Energy and  
23 Commerce of the House of Representa-  
24 tives.

1           “(4) RESTRICTION.—The Merit Systems Pro-  
2           tection Board or an administrative law judge may  
3           not stay any personnel action.

4           “(5) CESSATION OF PAY INCREASES AND BENE-  
5           FITS.—During the period beginning on the date on  
6           which an employee appeals a removal from the civil  
7           service under subsection (e)(2)(A) and ending on the  
8           date on which the removal becomes final, the em-  
9           ployee may not receive any—

10                   “(A) increase in rate of pay; or

11                   “(B) award, bonus, incentive, allowance,  
12           differential, student loan repayment, special  
13           payment, or other benefit.

14           “(6) ASSISTANCE.—To the maximum extent  
15           practicable, the Secretary shall provide such infor-  
16           mation and assistance as may be necessary to ensure  
17           an appeal under this subsection is expedited to—

18                   “(A) the Merit Systems Protection Board;

19                   and

20                   “(B) any administrative law judge to  
21           whom an appeal under this section is referred.

22           “(g) EMPLOYMENT RECORD TRANSPARENCY.—The  
23           Secretary shall ensure that the employment records for  
24           any employee subject to a personnel action, regardless of  
25           whether that personnel action is final, include—

1           “(1) a notation that the employee was subject  
2           to a personnel action; and

3           “(2) a description of the disposition or status of  
4           the personnel action or any appeal of the personnel  
5           action under this section.

6           “(h) RELATION TO TITLE 5, UNITED STATES  
7           CODE.—

8           “(1) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The personnel  
9           action authorities provided to the Secretary under  
10          this section are in addition to the authorities pro-  
11          vided under chapters 43 and 75 of title 5, United  
12          States Code.

13          “(2) REMOVAL OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES.—Sec-  
14          tion 3592(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, shall  
15          not apply to a personnel action.”.

16 **SEC. 107. STANDARDS TO IMPROVE TIMELINESS OF CARE.**

17          Title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
18          (25 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
19          the following:

20 **“SEC. 412. STANDARDS TO IMPROVE TIMELINESS OF CARE.**

21          “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after  
22          the date of enactment of the Restoring Accountability in  
23          the Indian Health Service Act of 2017, the Secretary, act-  
24          ing through the Service, shall—

1           “(1) establish, by regulation, standards to  
2           measure the timeliness of the provision of health  
3           care services in Service facilities; and

4           “(2) provide such standards to each Service  
5           unit.

6           “(b) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary, acting  
7           through the Service, shall develop a process for each Serv-  
8           ice unit to submit to the Secretary data with respect to  
9           the standards established under subsection (a)(1).”.

10 **SEC. 108. TRIBAL CULTURE AND HISTORY.**

11           Section 113 of the Indian Health Care Improvement  
12           Act (25 U.S.C. 1616f ) is amended—

13           (1) in subsection (a)—

14                   (A) by striking “a program” and inserting  
15                   “an annual mandatory training program”; and

16                   (B) by striking “appropriate employees of  
17                   the Service” and inserting “employees of the  
18                   Service, locum tenens medical providers, and  
19                   other contracted employees who work at Service  
20                   hospitals or other Service units and whose em-  
21                   ployment requires regular direct patient ac-  
22                   cess”; and

23           (2) by adding at the end the following:

24           “(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, be-  
25           ginning with the year of the date of enactment of the Re-

1 storing Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act  
2 of 2017, each employee or provider described in subsection  
3 (a) who enters into a contract with the Service on or after  
4 the date of such implementation shall, as a condition of  
5 employment, annually participate in and complete such  
6 training program. For purposes of the preceding sentence,  
7 participation in such training program may not be consid-  
8 ered complete for the year involved until the individual  
9 satisfies each requirement, including testing, if applicable,  
10 of the training program for such year, as specified by the  
11 Secretary.”.

12 **SEC. 109. STAFFING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

13 Title VIII of the Indian Health Care Improvement  
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
15 the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 833. STAFFING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
18 the Service, shall establish a demonstration project that  
19 authorizes the Service to provide federally managed Serv-  
20 ice units with additional staffing resources with the goal  
21 that the resources become self-sustaining.

22 “(b) SELECTION.—In selecting Service units for par-  
23 ticipation, the Secretary shall consider whether a Service  
24 unit services an Indian tribe that—

1           “(1) has utilized or contributed substantial trib-  
2           al funds to construct a health facility used by the  
3           Service or identified in the master plan for the Serv-  
4           ice unit;

5           “(2) is located in a State or States with Med-  
6           icaid reimbursements plans or policies that will in-  
7           crease the likelihood that the staffing resources pro-  
8           vided will be self-sustaining; and

9           “(3) is operating a health facility described in  
10          paragraph (1) under historical staffing ratios that  
11          have not been equalized or updated by the Service  
12          or any other Service program to reflect current  
13          staffing needs.

14          “(c) DURATION.—Staffing resources provided to a  
15          Service unit under this section shall be for a duration that  
16          the Secretary, in consultation with the applicable Indian  
17          tribe, determines appropriate, except that each staffing  
18          position provided shall be for a period of not less than  
19          3 fiscal years.

20          “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the Sec-  
21          retary ends the demonstration project under this section,  
22          the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the  
23          Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on  
24          Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,  
25          and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Com-

1 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-  
2 resentatives, regarding the project, including—

3 “(1) whether the staffing resources resulted in  
4 additional revenue for the Service unit sufficient to  
5 maintain the staff on a permanent basis;

6 “(2) the levels to which the staffing resources  
7 reduced the unmet staffing need for the Service unit;  
8 and

9 “(3) whether the demonstration project could  
10 be deployed to reduce unmet staffing needs through-  
11 out the Service.”.

12 **SEC. 110. RULE ESTABLISHING TRIBAL CONSULTATION**  
13 **POLICY.**

14 Title VIII of the Indian Health Care Improvement  
15 Act (25 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.), as amended by section 109,  
16 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 834. RULE ESTABLISHING TRIBAL CONSULTATION**  
18 **POLICY.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20 date of enactment of the Restoring Accountability in the  
21 Indian Health Service Act of 2017, the Secretary shall es-  
22 tablish, through the negotiated rulemaking process de-  
23 scribed in subsection (b), a rule establishing a tribal con-  
24 sultation policy for the Service.

1       “(b) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.—Before publishing  
2 a proposed rule described in subsection (a), the Secretary  
3 shall follow the provisions of subchapter III of chapter 5  
4 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the  
5 ‘Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990’).

6       “(c) CONTENTS OF TRIBAL CONSULTATION POL-  
7 ICY.—The policy established under the rule described in  
8 subsection (a) shall—

9               “(1) update, and replace, the tribal consultation  
10 policy established under Circular No. 2006–01 of the  
11 Service, or any successor policy; and

12               “(2) include the following:

13                       “(A) A process for determining when the  
14 Service will notify Indian tribes, and a descrip-  
15 tion of how the Indian tribes should be notified.

16                       “(B) A determination of what actions or  
17 agency decisions by the Service will trigger a re-  
18 quirement for meaningful consultation with In-  
19 dian tribes.

20                       “(C) A determination of what actions con-  
21 stitute meaningful consultation with Indian  
22 tribes.”.



1                   **TITLE II—EMPLOYEE**  
2                   **PROTECTIONS**

3 **SEC. 201. RIGHT OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO PETITION**  
4                   **CONGRESS.**

5           (a) ADVERSE ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO  
6 PETITION CONGRESS.—Section 7211 of title 5, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8                   (1) by striking “The right of” and inserting  
9                   “(a) IN GENERAL.—The right of”; and

10                   (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
11 section:

12                   “(b) ADVERSE ACTION.—An employee who interferes  
13 with or denies a right protected under subsection (a) shall  
14 be subject to any adverse action described in paragraphs  
15 (1) through (5) of section 7512, in accordance with the  
16 procedure described in section 7513 and any other appli-  
17 cable procedure.”.

18           (b) ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION OF RIGHT OF EM-  
19 PLOYEES OF INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—

20                   (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
21 Human Services (referred to in this subsection as  
22 the “Secretary”), acting through the Director of the  
23 Indian Health Service, shall, in accordance with  
24 paragraphs (2) through (6), provide to each em-  
25 ployee of the Indian Health Service, and electroni-

1 cally post, a memorandum providing notice of the  
2 right to petition Congress under section 7211 of title  
3 5, United States Code.

4 (2) CONTENTS.—The memorandum described  
5 in paragraph (1) shall include the following state-  
6 ment: “It is a violation of section 7211 of title 5,  
7 United States Code, for any Federal agency or em-  
8 ployee to require a Federal employee to seek ap-  
9 proval, guidance, or any other form of input prior to  
10 contacting Congress with information, even if that  
11 information is in relation to the job responsibilities  
12 of the employee. A Federal employee found to have  
13 interfered with or denied the right of another Fed-  
14 eral employee under such section shall be subject to  
15 an adverse action described in paragraphs (1)  
16 through (5) of section 7512 of title 5, United States  
17 Code, including a suspension for more than 14 days  
18 without pay.”.

19 (3) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 30 days after  
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
21 shall submit the memorandum described in para-  
22 graph (1) to the Inspector General of the Depart-  
23 ment of Health and Human Services (referred to in  
24 this subsection as the “Inspector General”) for ap-  
25 proval.

1           (4) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later  
2 than 30 days after the submission of the memo-  
3 randum under paragraph (3), or a revised memo-  
4 randum under paragraph (6), the Inspector General  
5 shall approve or disapprove the memorandum or re-  
6 vised memorandum, as the case may be.

7           (5) NOTICE.—In the case of an approval under  
8 paragraph (4), not later than 30 days after such ap-  
9 proval, the Secretary shall—

10                   (A) provide to each employee of the Indian  
11 Health Service an electronic copy of the ap-  
12 proved memorandum; and

13                   (B) post such memorandum in a clear and  
14 conspicuous place on the website of the Indian  
15 Health Service for a period not less than 120  
16 days.

17           (6) REVISED MEMORANDUM.—In the case of a  
18 disapproval under paragraph (4), not later than 15  
19 days after such disapproval, the Secretary shall sub-  
20 mit a revised memorandum to the Inspector General  
21 for approval under paragraph (4).

22 **SEC. 202. FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

23           Title VI of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act  
24 (25 U.S.C. 1661 et seq.), as amended by sections 105 and

1 106, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **“SEC. 607. FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

4 “(a) MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary fails to  
6 submit the professional housing plan under section  
7 301(a) of the Restoring Accountability in the Indian  
8 Health Service Act of 2017 or the staffing plan  
9 under section 301(b) of that Act, the Secretary may  
10 not receive, obligate, transfer, or expend any  
11 amounts for a salary increase or bonus of an indi-  
12 vidual described in paragraph (2) until the profes-  
13 sional housing plan or staffing plan, as the case may  
14 be, is submitted.

15 “(2) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual  
16 described in this paragraph is an individual em-  
17 ployed in a position in the Service that is a posi-  
18 tion—

19 “(A) described under sections 5312  
20 through 5316 of title 5, United States Code;

21 “(B) placed in level IV or V of the Execu-  
22 tive Schedule under section 5317 of title 5,  
23 United States Code;

24 “(C) as a limited term appointee, limited  
25 emergency appointee, or noncareer appointee in

1 the Senior Executive Service, as defined under  
2 paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of  
3 section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code;  
4 or

5 “(D) under section 213.3301 or 213.3302  
6 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations.

7 “(b) PRIORITIZATION OF PATIENT CARE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use  
9 amounts available to the Indian Health Service that  
10 are not obligated or expended, including base budget  
11 funding and third party collections, during the fiscal  
12 year for which the amounts are made available, and  
13 that remain available, only to support patient care  
14 by using such funds for the costs of—

15 “(A) essential medical equipment;

16 “(B) purchased or referred care; or

17 “(C) staffing.

18 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—In using amounts under  
19 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that, in  
20 any case where the amounts were originally made  
21 available for a particular Service unit, such amounts  
22 are used to benefit Indians served by that Service  
23 unit.

24 “(3) RESTRICTIONS.—The Secretary may not  
25 use amounts described in paragraph (1)—

1           “(A) to remodel or interior decorate any  
2           Area office; or

3           “(B) to increase the rate of pay of any em-  
4           ployee of an Area office.

5           “(c) SPENDING REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days  
6 after the end of each quarter of a fiscal year, the Secretary  
7 shall submit a report describing the authorizations, ex-  
8 penditures, outlays, transfers, reprogramming, and obliga-  
9 tions of each level of the Service, including the head-  
10 quarters, each Area office, each Service unit, and each  
11 health clinic or facility, to—

12           “(1) each Indian tribe;

13           “(2) in the Senate—

14           “(A) the Committee on Indian Affairs;

15           “(B) the Committee on Health, Education,  
16           Labor, and Pensions;

17           “(C) the Committee on Appropriations;

18           and

19           “(D) the Committee on the Budget; and

20           “(3) in the House of Representatives—

21           “(A) the Committee on Natural Resources;

22           “(B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
23           merce;

24           “(C) the Committee on Appropriations;

25           and

1 “(D) the Committee on the Budget.

2 “(d) STATUS REPORTS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
4 not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal  
5 year, the Secretary shall provide to each entity de-  
6 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection  
7 (c) a report describing the safety, billing, certifi-  
8 cation, credential, and compliance statuses of each  
9 facility managed, operated, or otherwise supported  
10 by the Service.

11 “(2) UPDATES.—With respect to any change of  
12 a status described in paragraph (1), the Secretary  
13 shall immediately provide to each entity described in  
14 paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (c) an up-  
15 date describing such change.

16 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section may  
17 not be construed to inhibit the authority of an Indian tribe  
18 to enter into or maintain a compact or contract under the  
19 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act  
20 (25 U.S.C. 5304 et seq.).”.

## 21 **TITLE III—REPORTS**

### 22 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this title:

24 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1           (2) SERVICE.—The term “Service” means the  
2           Indian Health Service.

3           (3) SERVICE UNIT.—The term “Service unit”  
4           has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
5           Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C.  
6           1603).

7   **SEC. 302. REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND**  
8           **HUMAN SERVICES.**

9           (a) IHS PROFESSIONAL HOUSING PLAN.—Not later  
10          than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
11          Secretary shall develop, make publicly available, and sub-  
12          mit to Congress and the Comptroller General of the  
13          United States a written plan to address the professional  
14          housing needs of employees of the Service that comports  
15          with the practices and recommendations of the Govern-  
16          ment Accountability Office relating to professional hous-  
17          ing.

18          (b) PLAN RELATING TO IHS STAFFING NEEDS.—  
19          Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment  
20          of this Act, the Secretary shall develop, make publicly  
21          available, and submit to Congress and the Comptroller  
22          General of the United States a written plan to address  
23          staffing needs in the Service that comports with the prac-  
24          tices of the Government Accountability Office relating to  
25          workforce planning.



1 (c) INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT RE-  
2 PORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
3 of this Act, and each year thereafter for a period of 5  
4 years, the Secretary shall develop, make publicly available,  
5 and submit to Congress a report on the data submitted  
6 under section 412(b) of the Indian Health Care Improve-  
7 ment Act, as amended by section 107.

8 **SEC. 303. REPORTS BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**

9 (a) IHS HOUSING NEEDS REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11 the date on which the Comptroller General of the  
12 United States receives the professional housing plan  
13 under section 302(a), the Comptroller General shall  
14 develop and submit to Congress a report on the pro-  
15 fessional housing needs of employees of the Service.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
17 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

18 (A) An evaluation of any existing, as of the  
19 date of the report, assessments and projections  
20 for the professional housing needs of employees  
21 of the Service, including discussion and conclu-  
22 sion as to whether existing assessments and  
23 projections accurately reflect the professional  
24 housing needs of employees of the Service.

1           (B) An assessment of the professional  
2           housing needs of employees of the Service for  
3           each Service area (as defined in section 4 of the  
4           Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25  
5           U.S.C. 1603)).

6           (C) An assessment of the professional  
7           housing plan developed by the Secretary under  
8           section 302(a).

9           (b) IHS STAFFING NEEDS REPORT.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11           the date on which the Comptroller General receives  
12           the report under section 302(b), the Comptroller  
13           General shall prepare and submit to Congress a re-  
14           port on the staffing needs of the Service.

15           (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
16           paragraph (1) shall include the following:

17           (A) A description of the number and type  
18           of full-time positions needed at each facility of  
19           the Service and the amount of funds necessary  
20           to maintain such positions.

21           (B) An assessment of the use of inde-  
22           pendent contractors, including the number of  
23           independent contractors hired to fill vacant full-  
24           time positions and amounts spent on inde-

1           pendent contractors who provide health care  
2           services.

3                   (C) An assessment of the staffing plan de-  
4           veloped by the Secretary under section 302(b).

5           (c) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS REPORT.—

6                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
7           the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
8           General shall develop and submit to Congress a re-  
9           port on the efficacy of existing protections for whis-  
10          tleblowers in the Service.

11                   (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
12          paragraph (1) shall include the following:

13                           (A) A discussion and conclusion as to  
14           whether the Service has taken proper steps to  
15           prevent retaliation against whistleblowers.

16                           (B) If applicable, any recommendations for  
17           changes to the policy of the Service with respect  
18           to whistleblowers.

19                           (C) A discussion and conclusion as to  
20           whether the official email accounts of employees  
21           of the Service are appropriately monitored.

22   **SEC. 304. INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.**

23           (a) PATIENT CARE REPORTS.—

24                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
25           the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years

1 thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department  
2 of Health and Human Services shall develop and  
3 submit to Congress and the Service a report on pa-  
4 tient harm events occurring in Service units and de-  
5 ferrals and denials of care of patients of the Service.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
7 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

8 (A) An evaluation of the number and kind  
9 of events that contribute to patient deaths in a  
10 Service unit and recommendations regarding re-  
11 ducing the number of patient deaths.

12 (B) An evaluation of the Service’s tracking  
13 and reporting of, and response to, patient harm  
14 events and recommendations regarding how to  
15 improve such tracking, reporting, and response.

16 (C) The effects of deferrals and denials of  
17 care on patients of the Service, including pa-  
18 tient outcomes, and recommendations regarding  
19 how to reduce deferrals and denials of care.

20 (b) REPORTING SYSTEMS AUDIT.—Not later than 2  
21 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector  
22 General shall—

23 (1) conduct an audit of reporting systems of the  
24 Service, as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

1           (2) provide to the Service recommendations and  
2           technical assistance regarding implementation of im-  
3           proved reporting systems, procedures, standards,  
4           and protocols.

5 **SEC. 305. TRANSPARENCY IN CMS SURVEYS.**

6           Section 1880 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 1395qq) is amended by adding at the end the following:  
8           “(g)(1) Not less frequently than once every 2 years,  
9           the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
10          Services shall conduct surveys to assess the compliance of  
11          each hospital or skilled nursing facility of the Indian  
12          Health Service with—

13                   “(A) section 1867; and

14                   “(B) conditions of participation in the program  
15          under this title.

16          “(2) Each survey completed under this subsection  
17          shall be posted on the Internet website of the Centers for  
18          Medicare & Medicaid Services. Such posting shall comply  
19          with the Federal regulations concerning the privacy of in-  
20          dividually identifiable health information promulgated  
21          under section 264(e) of the Health Insurance Portability  
22          and Accountability Act of 1996.”.

1                   **TITLE IV—TECHNICAL**  
2                   **AMENDMENTS**

3 **SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

4           The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C.  
5 1601 et seq.) is amended—

6                   (1) by striking “contract health service” each  
7           place such term appears (regardless of casing and  
8           typeface and including in the headings) and insert-  
9           ing “purchased/referred care” (with appropriate cas-  
10          ing and typeface); and

11                   (2) by striking “contract health services” each  
12          place such term appears (regardless of casing and  
13          typeface and including in the headings) and insert-  
14          ing “purchased/referred care” (with appropriate cas-  
15          ing and typeface).

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