



UTAH NAVAJO HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.

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December 10, 2019

Dear members of the NALLC,

The Utah Navajo Health System's (UNHS) board of directors continues to value the partnership it has with the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). We believe our collaboration has positively impacted healthcare along the northern strip of the Navajo Nation. The support of the UDOH has allowed UNHS to provide direct care to some of the most underserved and geographically remote residents in Utah.

Navajo patients have unique needs. They have social-economic challenges that most patients along the Wasatch Front do not understand. Vast rural areas and economic challenges make combatting diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity more challenging on Navajo.

We support Senator Iwamoto's goal of creating an Indian Health Department at the UDOH. We believe that funding staff positions who will focus on the specific needs of Native Americans will allow the UDOH to become more patient focused to the needs of our Navajo patients. The new department can also foster a stronger cultural sensitivity to Native Americans in the State.

Thank you for allowing UNHS' board to offer input on Senator Iwamoto's proposed bill. We fully support her in this endeavor. And we continue to appreciate the ongoing guidance and assistance of the Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Melinda Farley,
Board Chairperson