



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council applauds the nomination of Roselyn Tso as director of the Indian Health Service

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council applaud President Joe Biden’s nomination of Roselyn Tso to serve as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). She currently is the Director for the Navajo Area IHS and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.

“The Navajo Nation commends this historic nomination of Ms. Roselyn Tso who has served more than 38 years with the Indian Health Service providing for the healthcare needs of families across Indian Country. Ms. Tso has committed her professional life to the public health field and overseen the well-being of the Navajo people during this pandemic. Her years of leadership on the frontlines have prepared her to lead the IHS and to be an outspoken voice for tribes across the United States. We appreciate President Biden for appointing highly motivated and qualified Native American leaders to key positions within his administration,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

Once confirmed, Tso will lead a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that deliver health services to approximately 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“Ms. Roselyn Tso is known to be an avid protector of our Diné people. We foresee her leadership advocating for tribal nations across the United States with a great deal of compassion and care. The Navajo Nation wishes her all the blessings on this new journey from our Creator,” Council Delegate Thomas Walker (Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Coalmine Canyon, Cameron).

Since 1984, Tso has served with the Indian Health Service in various leadership roles. Currently, while overseeing the Navajo Area IHS, the agency delivers health services to over 244,000 people from the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Zuni Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, and the Navajo Nation. Five Navajo IHS medical service units are located in Chinle, Crownpoint, Gallup, Kayenta, and Shiprock.

“The Navajo people are proud that one of our matriarchs was appointed by the Biden-Harris Administration into a key leadership position. She is an outstanding representative and a strong voice for Indigenous women across the country. We look forward to working with Ms. Tso and the Indian Health Service to provide the best healthcare for our Navajo families during this pandemic,” said Madam Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tsé’á’náoozt’í’í, Sheep Springs, Beclabito, Gad’ii’áhí/Tó Ko’i).

According to the White House, Tso was responsible for the implementation of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act within her professional roles at the IHS and worked to provide quality direct services for tribes.

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“Ms. Roselyn Tso developed a collaborative relationship and opened lines of communication with the Navajo Nation Council. We early on saw Ms. Tso as a change agent where she focused on patient care and the proper delivery of health care services for tribes. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee would like for her to finish the work she saw that is necessary like the completion of the Pueblo Pintado Health Center, the Gap-Bodaway Health Center, and the long-delayed Gallup Indian Medical Center. We know that she will proceed to make the systematic changes in enhancing healthcare delivery services for the 570+ tribal nations,” said Chairman Daniel Tso (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor).

Tso holds a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies from Marylhurst University in Portland, Oregon, and a master’s degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

Vice Chairman Carl Slater (Round Rock, Rock Point, Tséch’izí, Lukachukai, Tsaille-Wheatfields) offered praise for this historic nomination and his support by adding, “Director Tso provided clear and compassionate leadership to the Navajo people and the employees of the Navajo Area IHS. I am confident she will carry this model of leadership to her new position serving all of Indian Country.”

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