

# United States Senate

February 21, 2019

Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee  
Acting Director  
Indian Health Service  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Admiral Weahkee:

I write concerning the disturbing reports of the Indian Health Service's (IHS) handling of Stanley Patrick Weber. As you know, Mr. Weber was a former pediatrician at IHS who was recently convicted of sexually molesting children while working on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana and faces additional charges of sexual abuse in South Dakota during his time at the Pine Ridge Reservation.

I understand Secretary Azar has ordered the Office of Inspector General to conduct a review on IHS policies regarding abuse allegations. While all the details have yet to be uncovered, it is clear IHS failed to appropriately address the reports of suspicious behavior exhibited by Mr. Weber. This systemic breakdown is appalling and unacceptable.

While justice is being served in the court of law, accountability must be demanded of IHS and the individuals who enabled Mr. Weber to continue molesting children for over two decades.

- When will the IHS internal investigation be concluded?
- Once the investigation is concluded, will you commit to briefing relevant Congressional committees on your findings?
- What actions will be taken to hold individuals accountable who covered up or turned a blind eye to the repeated concerns raised by Mr. Weber's behavior?
- What steps will IHS take to determine any past or current reported suspicions are appropriately addressed?
- What is the course of action to prevent systemic failure of this nature from occurring in the future?
- What steps will IHS take to create a culture where employees and patients can report inappropriate behavior without fear of retribution?

Our Native youth are already a uniquely vulnerable population facing severe social and economic challenges. Our Indian population, especially our children, must feel safe and trust must be restored. I encourage your immediate attention to this matter and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator