Navajo Nation Council applauds Senate Confirmation of Roselyn Tso as Director of Indian Health Service

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PHOTO: Hon. Speaker Seth Damon and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council express their gratitude during the Signing Ceremony to Commerate the Valor and Commitment of Doctors, Nurses, Frontline Workers, and the Indian Health Service during the Pandemic back in March, 2022.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council applaud the U.S. Senate confirmation of Roselyn Tso as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). Tso will lead the future development of IHS healthcare policy to deliver improved health services to all American Indians and Alaska Natives across Indian Country.

"It is no surprise Ms. Roselyn Tso was nominated by President Biden because she has served many families across Indian Country for more than 38 years with the Indian Health Service," said Speaker Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). "I thank the U.S. Senate for unanimously confirming Ms. Tso for she will fulfill her mission to deliver quality healthcare to all of our Indigenous relatives."

With her recent confirmation, Tso will lead a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that delivers health services to approximately 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Roselyn Tso began her career at IHS in 1984 and held various leadership positions in Portland, Oregon before serving as Director of the Navajo Area IHS in 2019.

In addition, 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.

"The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee acknowledges that Ms. Tso had the Navajo Area IHS focus on patient centered healthcare services," said Chairman Daniel Tso (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor). "During the COVID-19 pandemic, her leadership contributed to the highest vaccination rates among the Navajo people which clearly demonstrates her ability to effect change in Indigenous healthcare across the United States."

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.

Ms. Roselyn Tso will join the long list of Indigenous women in the Biden-Harris Administration who will lead prominent roles and positions within various departments of the United States.