

June 10, 2016

VIA EMAIL

Congresswoman Kristi Noem  
2422 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515  
Attn: Matthew Hittle  
Email: Matthew.Hittle@mail.house.gov

Dear Rep. Noem:

On behalf of Avera, I am writing in support of H.R. 5406, *Helping Ensure Accountability, Leadership, and Trust in Tribal Healthcare (HEALTTH) Act*. This bill would be instrumental in improving the quality of health care available to American Indians through several provisions, including:

- Providing authority to IHS to begin a pilot project to test an alternative health care delivery model, with an emphasis on preparing tribes for self-governance
- Expanding IHS' hiring authority and streamlining the process required for removing or demoting employees
- Developing and implementing standards to measure timeliness of care at direct-service IHS facilities

Avera, the health ministry of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to maintain excellent care at more than 300 locations in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states.

The provisions in H.R. 5406, *Helping Ensure Accountability, Leadership, and Trust in Tribal Healthcare (HEALTTH) Act* are important to Avera to increase access to and quality of health care available for American Indians in our nation.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer-Clemens, RN, BSN, MHA  
Senior Vice President  
Avera