

Remarks of Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Chairman - Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Hearing on the Impact of the Proposed "One-HHS" Initiative on
the Department of Health and Human Services and the Indian
Health Service

April 2, 2003

Good morning and welcome to the Committee on Indian Affairs' hearing on the impact of Secretary Thompson's proposed "One-HHS" Initiative on the Department of Health and Human Services and on the Indian Health Service.

The "One-HHS Initiative" is being vigorously debated on Capitol Hill, in Indian Country, and elsewhere and today we will hear how the "One-HHS Initiative" will impact health delivery to Native people.

Though we are focusing on the "One-HHS Initiative" today, this hearing is the first in a series the Committee will be holding on legislation to reauthorize and extend the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act* that I introduced along with Senators Inouye and McCain.

Efforts to consolidate Federal programs are not new and many times have proven successful - such as the Employment and Training Program known as "the 477 Program".

We are trying to achieve the same success with alcohol,

drug, and mental health programs and will hold a hearing on that bill next week.

Nevertheless, Tribes have expressed concerns with the "One HHS" proposal and today we will hear about some of those concerns.

I will forego the rest of my statement in the interest of time and go forward with the hearing.

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