

Mr Chairman-

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Marie Carroll and I am from the Northern Inupiat tribe and the President/CEO of the Arctic Slope Native Association and Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital located in my home of Barrow, Alaska.

Our hospital serves a geographic area larger than 40 of the 50 states with a service population of more than 15,000 people. The next closest hospital, pharmacy, or physician's office is more than 400 air miles away in Fairbanks. Our current service population is significantly greater than the service population of 2,133 in 1964 when our current hospital was built.

I want to thank you for recognizing this need and helping us with the funding to build a new hospital. It is the first Title V hospital construction project of its size in the nation and I am glad to report to you that our hospital construction project is on time and on budget. Our commissioning date for the facility remains the same as it did at the beginning of construction-this December-a short 9 months away.

Once the building is commissioned we plan to immediately make the transition into the new facility and begin operations in April of 2013-a year from now. However, in order for us to begin operations in fiscal year 2013 we need to have our staffing package funded. When the FY13 staffing package was developed the funds for construction were in jeopardy and the potential delay would have increased the cost of the construction significantly along with the opening of the hospital. Thankfully the funds to complete construction came through allowing us to stay on track with construction and keep the timeline in place. However, the delay did result in our staffing package not being funded in the President's budget.

We respectfully request that our staffing package along with those in the President's budget be fully funded for the portion of the fiscal year that the facilities are operational.

In closing, I would like to invite you to our commissioning ceremony in December and for those that believe that it may be too cold and dark, I would invite you to come to our Grand opening in April. Thank you.