

**Subject: Important Staff Announcement**

**Colleagues,**

**Dr. Yvette Roubideaux has ably led the Indian Health Service (IHS) since 2009 and been an important member of the HHS leadership team. In 2013, the President nominated her for a second four-year term as Director of IHS. Since then, she has also been serving as the Acting Director of IHS. Last week, it was determined that a provision in a 2009 appropriations act is permanent law that limits the amount of time that a nominee can serve in an Acting position for which they have been nominated. As we work with the White House and the Senate to resubmit and process her nomination, I have asked Yvette to serve as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary for American Indians and Alaska Natives.**

**In her new role, Yvette will bring her experience, commitment and expertise to a number of important projects. I have asked her to focus on a range of important initiatives and policies: the Department's engagement with the President's Generation Indigenous initiative for Native youth, examining how the Affordable Care Act and delivery system reform impact American Indians and Alaska Natives, understanding behavioral health initiatives related to the populations IHS serves, and improving information technology for health programs serving American Indians and Alaska Natives. I look forward to continuing to work with Yvette and the rest of the Department on these critical initiatives and will rely on her expertise to drive our efforts in these areas.**

**In the interim, Robert McSwain, currently the Deputy Director of IHS will serve as the Acting Director of IHS. Bob is a long time civil servant who has years of experience at IHS, including serving as the Acting Director. I appreciate Bob's willingness to serve in this capacity and lead IHS during this period of time.**

**Sincerely,**

**Sylvia M. Burwell**

**Secretary**