

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17-166

RE: C.R. NO. 17-196/H&SA

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. ALIK S. ISAAC TO SERVE AS A MEMBER REPRESENTING THE STATE OF KOSRAE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FSM MICARE.

NOVEMBER 26, 2012

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Seventeenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Special Session 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health & Social Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 17-196, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. ALIK S. ISAAC TO SERVE AS A MEMBER REPRESENTING THE STATE OF KOSRAE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FSM MICARE, PURSUANT TO TITLE 52 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AS AMENDED."

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee is committed to high standards in the field of health, including the provision of health insurance. In order for MiCare, the primary health insurance provider in the Federated States of Micronesia, to continue to provide quality, affordable health insurance its Board of Directors must be able to operate at the highest levels in the areas of administration and finance. The nominee has an extensive background in administration and finance, which will be valuable to the Board. It is, therefore, recommended that the above named nominee be confirmed as soon as possible to allow MiCare a representative member from Kosrae with the

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necessary skill and experience to work on the important issues it must address before the end of this year.

Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of the nominee, Mr. Alik S. Isaac, extensively upon receipt of his nomination. The nominee began his career in the Kosrae State Department of Education as an elementary school teacher (1982-1992). In 1992 the nominee joined the Kosrae State Legislature as an Assistant Administrative Officer, in 1995 he became the Fiscal Officer of the Kosrae Legislature and in 2005 he advanced to his current position of Administrative Officer/Financial Officer. The nominee is very active in community service and has served on a number of health related boards including presiding as Chairman of the Kosrae State Health Advisory Council and as the Vice-Chairman of the WE CARE Medical Insurance Program. The nominee is well respected regarding his administration and financial skills. Your Committee has not received any communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee.

A public hearing was held on November 23, 2012 where your Committee met with the nominee, the Administrator of MiCare, and a representative from the President's Office. During the hearing the Administrator highlighted current pressing issues which must have Board of Directors approval by the end of this year, including the renegotiation of Memorandums of Understanding between at least five health service providers, and issues regarding the widening participation in the State of Yap. The Administrator stated that the nominee is a dedicated public servant and has an excellent general background for service on the Board. The Administrator stated that there was always a "learning curve" for new board members but he was confident that the nominee would quickly grasp the relevant rules and regulations.

Your Committee raised the concern that, if confirmed, this would be the second member of the MiCare Board of Directors that does not reside in Pohnpei. The Administrator

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reiterated the position of the Administration that a diversified board membership is valuable for many reasons, including dissemination of information and communication of concerns from the participants in the program at the local level. The Administrator agreed that there would be additional travel expense with this nominee's service, however, the value of the service of this nominee and diversification was important. The Administrator further added that some matters before the Board could be resolved by email correspondence, and that the Administration was exploring other technical solutions such as teleconferencing.

The nominee was questioned as to the position of the Kosrae State Legislature regarding his service on this Board. He stated that he approached the Speaker and was given approval to go forward in seeking nomination. Your Committee also notes that Governor Jackson sent a favorable recommendation with this nomination.

The nominee spoke on his on behalf and was enthusiastic regarding his nomination. He stated he would work hard and welcomed the opportunity to serve. When questioned as to his selection as a nominee he stated he believed the Governor selected him due to his service on the Kosrae State Health Advisory Council.

Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends Mr. Alik S. Isaac, be confirmed as a member of the Board of Directors of MiCare.

Your Committee on Health & Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 17-196, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Tony H. Otto
Tony H. Otto, chairman

/s/ Yosiwo P. George
Yosiwo P. George, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Dohsis Halbert
Dohsis Halbert, member

/s/ Berney Martin
Berney Martin, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal, member