

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-33

RE: C.R. NO. 19-42/H&SA

SUBJECT: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DR. ELIZABETH IEHSI
KELLER TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MICARE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS, REPRESENTING THE STATE OF POHNPEI.

AUGUST 16, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health And Social Affairs, to which was
referred C.R. No. 19-42, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF DR.
ELIZABETH IEHSI KELLER TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE
MICARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REPRESENTING THE STATE OF
POHNPEI.”,

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in
its title.

Your Committee opened the meeting by stating that it
recognizes the importance of the MiCare Insurance Program
in improving the health and well-being of our Nation's
citizens, particularly at this challenging point in
history, with raising healthcare costs and increasing costs
for air transportation. The MiCare Board of Directors has

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the enormous responsibility of guiding the Program both to ensure fiscal viability of the Program, but also to provide the broadest possible coverage for quality healthcare. To these ends the members of the Board should include individuals from a diverse group of the relevant healthcare, financial and government departments. The Committee believes that the nominee, Dr. Elizabeth Iehsi Keller, has the necessary skills and experience, and strongly recommends she be confirmed as the State of Pohnpei representative for the MiCare Board of Directors.

Your Committee held a hearing on August 15, 2015 with the Administrator of MiCare, members of the current MiCare Board of Directors, and the nominee.

The MiCare Administrator stated that in order to ensure quality oversight and guidance for MiCare it welcomed Dr. Keller as a nominee as she has had a long career as a physician serving in Pohnpei, and served four years (2008-2012) as Director of the Department of Health Services for Pohnpei State.

Your Committee inquired how the nominee's name was put forward for possible service on the Board. The nominee stated that the Pohnpei Governor's Chief of Staff contacted her and asked she would be interested on service on the Board. The nominee confirmed that she did not initiate the discussion regarding her possible nomination. During the hearing the nominee stated she was able to commit her time to serve on the Board and felt it was important work. In answer to additional questions by the Committee she stated that she was not currently serving on other boards or with other organizations outside of her employment, and felt she would be able to devote adequate time to her service on the MiCare Board of Directors if confirmed.

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The Committee, the MiCare administration and the MiCare Board of Directors are familiar with the nominee and expressed their support for her. Several current issues challenging MiCare were discussed at the hearing, and the nominee showed an impressive understanding and depth of knowledge as to the problems facing our Nation's healthcare insurer.

Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication from any individual or organization that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of this nominee. Further your Committee defers to the President, the Pohnpei State Governor and MiCare as to the decision to put forward this nominee. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes this nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Dr. Elizabeth Iehsi Keller be confirmed to the MiCare Board of Directors as its Pohnpei State representative.

Your Committee would like to offer the following amendment to C.R. No. 19-42 to read as follows:

1. Page 1, line 15, delete "First", and insert "Second" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Health And Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-42, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto, as C.R. No. 19-42, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

<u>Bonsiano F. Nethon, chairman</u>	<u>/s/ Ferny S. Perman</u> Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman
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<u>/s/ Tiwiter Aritos</u> Tiwiter Aritos, member	<u>Florencio S. Harper, member</u>
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<u>/s/ David W. Panuelo</u> David W. Panuelo, member	<u>/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal</u> Joseph J. Urusemal, member
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<u>/s/ Alik L. Alik</u> Alik L. Alik, member
