



USET Resolution No. 2011:006

SUPPORT TRIBAL ACCESS TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** members of the USET Board of Directors are working for the best interest of their Tribal Nations, and their citizens to protect, promote, and enhance opportunities for their people; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes have always maintained that a government-to-government relationship exists between the federal government and federally recognized Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** this unique relationship requires the Administration and its Operating Divisions to consult with Indian Tribes on any policy and/or legislative matters that impact or may potentially impact Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Affordable Care Act of 2010 included the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA); and
- WHEREAS,** a provision within the IHCA, Access to Federal Insurance (Section 157) would allow Indian Tribes and Tribal Organization that operate an Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contract or compact to purchase insurance coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) for their employees; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) have been charged with the implementation of Section 157; and
- WHEREAS,** it is imperative that Indian Country be proactive and involved in the implementation of Section 157 and have a seat at the table to ensure that the unique Tribal Government structure is fully understood; and
- WHEREAS,** any decisions in implementing Section 157 must assure that the unique Tribal Government structure is not adversely impacted, and, indeed, is strengthened and enhanced by the aforementioned provision; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the implementation of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act provision titled, "Access to Federal Insurance"; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Personnel Management and the Indian Health Service to include Tribal representation at the table throughout the implementation process.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"