



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

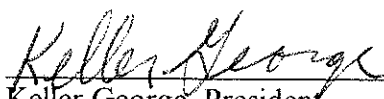
Resolution No. USET 97:59

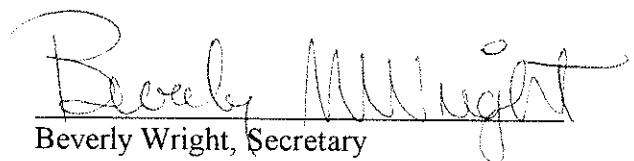
TRIBAL AMENDMENTS TO THE *PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1996*

- WHEREAS**, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, the USET Board of Directors is dedicated and committed to the needs of its tribes and members to the goal of preserving the sovereignty, inherent rights, integrity, and stability of our Indian children and families; and,
- WHEREAS**, on August 22, 1996 President Clinton signed into law the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996* - P.L. 104-193, also known as the "welfare reform" law; this law authorizes the US Department of Health and Human Services to provide greater authority to states through block grants for "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families" and further authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide direct funding to Tribal governments to operate Temporary Assistance to Needy Families [TANF] programs; and,
- WHEREAS**, the implementation process of the law to date has revealed that tribes lack the flexibility and access to resources needed to successfully implement the TANF and other welfare reform programs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., hereby informs the United States Congress that the enactment of the following amendments to P.L. 104-193 are necessary to successfully implement the welfare reform programs:
- o Tribal Access to State Funding Sources - Ensuring Tribal access to funding equivalent to all funds available to states, including supplemental funding, contingency funds, and bonuses, and make exemptions and other options available to states, available to tribes as well;
 - o Direct Funding for Start-up & Administrative Costs - Ensuring adequate funding to the tribes for the development of Tribal Management Information Systems (MIS) to meet data collection and reporting requirements and for the administration of case management activities for TANF programs;
 - o Quality & Accountability Assurance Review - Mandate that the DHHS Secretary conduct research on the Tribal TANF programs as well as state programs, including information on potential benefits, effects, and costs of operating different TANF programs.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"