



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2009:061

**SUPPORT OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT AND THE
INCLUSION IN HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION**

- 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,** the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) has since 1976 provided a detailed structure for addressing the health care needs of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in a manner consistent with the federal responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** the mainstream American health care has moved out of the hospitals and into people's homes; and modernization of AI/AN health care is needed to uphold that responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHCIA was last reauthorized in 1992 and the current authorization for appropriations in the Act expired on September 30, 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 2708 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 4, 2009, and was referred to the three committees of jurisdiction, the House Natural Resources Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, for consideration; and
- WHEREAS,** a companion bill, S.1790, was introduced in the U.S. Senate on October 15, 2009, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have continued to make significant concessions during the ten year process of attempting to obtain Reauthorization of the IHCIA, but steadfastly refuse to retract from current and/or existing law; and
- WHEREAS,** the Obama Administration and Congress is working to pass comprehensive health care reform legislation during the 111th Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** Reauthorization of the IHCIA is a top priority for USET and Indian Country and is essential to improving the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors applauds and strongly supports the efforts of the Obama Administration and Congress to include the text of H.R. 2708, Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, in the House Health Care Reform package; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the Obama Administration and Congress to also include the text of S.1790, which would reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, as an amendment in the Senate Health Care Reform package that is currently pending in the 111th Congress.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Hollywood, FL on Thursday, October 29, 2009.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”