



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2015:027

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an inter-Tribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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,** through its unique relationship with Indian Tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the education needs of American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians, residing on and off their homelands; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes should have the authority and funding to build capacity to administer education programs which include operating title programs in schools located on Tribal lands that serve Native students; and
- WHEREAS,** the continued existence of Native languages is critical to protecting and strengthening Tribal communities, and requires adequate funding and resources; and
- WHEREAS,** sustaining funding for immersion schools will ensure a well-rounded education which includes math and language arts while strengthening Tribal culture and promoting linguistic traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** there must be adequate support to expand and strengthen the skills of Native educators and improve technical assistance while addressing the various cultural linguistic, and scholastic needs of all Native students; and
- WHEREAS,** Native students often transfer between federal, state and Tribal school districts, which creates information gaps as systems are not required to track and coordinate student data; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government has a trust responsibility to work with Tribes addressing their needs therefore the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization should require local education agencies and state partners to closely work and consult with Indian Tribes when developing applications for title programs that serve Native students; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes and the Bureau of Indian Education are currently ineligible for many Department of Education programs and Native youth are among the country's most at risk students; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors supports an Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization which ensures equal access to programs, funds and resources critical for the success of Native students.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”