



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

**Nashville TN Office**  
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100  
Nashville TN 37214  
P: (615) 872-7900  
F: (615) 872-7417

**Washington DC Office**  
400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585  
Washington DC 20001  
P: (202) 624-3550  
F: (202) 393-5218

## USET SPF Resolution No. 2017 SPF:005

### **CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES TO COOPERATE WITH CUBA TO BRING HEBERPROT-P TO INDIAN COUNTRY**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people have some of the highest rates of diabetes in the United States (U.S.); in some Tribal communities, as high as 60 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for AI/AN communities, with a mortality rate 4.8 times higher than the U.S. general population; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations have seen an increase in diabetes treatment, prevention and education programs and activities, through the support of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) grant program, a program administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Indian Health Service (IHS); and
- WHEREAS,** without Congressional support and authorization of SDPI, advances and innovation in the treatment and prevention of diabetes would be slow or non-existent, however, the status of program funding has been without increase for a significant period of time, during which the incidence and treatment costs of diabetes have increased; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations have resorted to exploring additional health care practices and best practices to advance the health care of their citizens, including the international medical relations; and
- WHEREAS,** through international relationships, Tribal Nations have been provided best practices on the treatment of diabetes complications, like foot ulcers; and
- WHEREAS,** Cuba has a proven treatment using Herberprot-P that dramatically reduces the risk of amputation from diabetic foot ulcers by more than 70 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** diabetic foot ulcers affect an estimated 15 percent of people living with diabetes, which is a condition that precedes 85 percent of all diabetes-related amputations and the direct medical cost of treating diabetic foot ulcers is \$9 - 13 billion a year; and

- WHEREAS,** Heberprot-P is currently available in 20 countries, but remains unavailable to Americans and Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** through international relationships, Tribal Nations have an opportunity to access Heberprot-P in the U.S. at established and pre-determined limb salvage centers in collaboration with Mercurio Biosciences' clinical trials; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF Board member Tribal Nations are seeking to include health centers throughout Indian Country in both early and affordable access to Heberprot-P and to expedite FDA approval; and
- WHEREAS,** through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Tribal Nations have reaffirmed their rights to determine and develop priorities and strategies supporting community health and have the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the United States should take the necessary steps to fully realize this right; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations strive to protect the:
- Right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to access traditional medicines and to maintain health practices.
  - Right to access, without discrimination, to social and health services; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of UNDRIP, whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors supports expedited clinical trials for Heberprot-P and subsequent FDA approval. The USET SPF Board of Directors also supports early and affordable access to Heberprot-P for American Indian and Alaskan Natives suffering from diabetic foot ulcers.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, October 26, 2016.

  
Chief Kirk Francis, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund

  
Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund

*Because there is Strength in Unity*