



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2017 SPF:012

### **SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS**


- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes 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 Alaskan Native (AI/AN) suffer the highest rates of diabetes in the world with a prevalence rate among adults as high as 60%; and
- WHEREAS,** diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for AI/AN communities, which also have a mortality rate 4.8 times higher than the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** in an attempt to address the diabetes epidemic throughout Indian Country, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$30 million in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Congress authorized the Indian Health Service (IHS) to develop and implement the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) utilizing the funds appropriated in the 1997 BBA; and
- WHEREAS,** because diabetes is so prevalent in Indian communities and \$30 million per year was not enough funding to make an adequate impact at the local level, the U.S. Congress appropriated an additional \$70 million in 2001 and another \$50 million in 2002, bringing the total amount available to \$150 million per year through Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, which was extended in 2008, 2011 and 2014 carrying programs through FY 2017; and
- WHEREAS,** the SDPI has been very successful in the fight to prevent diabetes and continued funding for the program, which expires on September 30, 2017, will support continued progress to treat this disease until a cure may be found; and
- WHEREAS,** loss of funding would be devastating and even more costly to both Tribal governments and the nation because all of the gains made with the current funding would be lost; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF member Tribal Nations support an "Ask" that would reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians for an extended period of time or at least three years at a base funding level of no less than \$150 million per year, with incremental increases each year based on medical inflation rates; and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians is a top priority for USET SPF and Indian Country and is essential to improving the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; 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** the USET SPF Board of Directors supports and urges Congress to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians during Fiscal Year 2017.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 9, 2017.

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

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