



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 97:21

**ELEVATION OF DIRECTOR OF INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

- WHEREAS,** The United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** The actions taken by the USET, Inc. 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 Director of Indian Health Service holds the highest direct federal responsibility for the health status of Indian people; and
- WHEREAS,** The Indian Health Service is one of two major agencies within the United States government, whose sole focus is to serve federally-recognized tribes, the other being the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is administratively responsible for the Indian Health Service agency operations; and
- WHEREAS,** The Director of the Indian Health Service does not report directly to the Secretary; and
- WHEREAS,** The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. strongly believes that this lack of direct access to the Secretary from the lead advocate on behalf of Indian health programs is not in the best interests of tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 311 introduced by Senator John McCain recognizes the need for this advocacy and access by promoting the elevation of the Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Board of Directors of USET hereby recommends and supports the passage of Senate Bill 311 which elevates the Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

“Because there is strength in Unity”

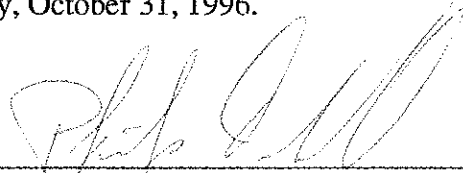
(USET 97:21)

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Annual Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Myrtle Beach, SC on Thursday, October 31, 1996.



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



Philip Tarbell, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.