



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 99:45

**SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN
AIDS PREVENTION CENTER PRIORITIES**

- WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-three (23) 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**, USET recognizes that HIV/AIDS is now one of the top ten leading causes of death among American Indians aged 15-34 and there are already close to 2,000 diagnosed cases of AIDS among American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN); and
- WHEREAS**, Sexually-transmitted disease rates have declined for every population in the U.S. except for AI/AN; and
- WHEREAS**, there are significant problems with the nation's disease surveillance system in Indian Country, specifically, with lack of or misreporting of race/ethnicity, and lack of coordination between branches of government; and
- WHEREAS**, the cost of AIDS drugs per patient per year is estimated to be between \$11,000-\$13,000; and the federal government has recognized the burden this cost represents for state health departments, but not for tribal, urban, and IHS operated health systems; and
- WHEREAS**, the Ryan White Care Act has considered Indian Country only within a limited area of the Act entitled Special Programs of National Significance, and has failed to adequately address the needs of the Indian health care system under the Trust Responsibility; and
- WHEREAS**, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center has been working for the past twelve years to assist tribal and urban communities with HIV prevention and care to improve the health of AI/AN people; and
- WHEREAS**, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center's National Policy Advisory Council has recommended four national AIDS policy priorities: 1) Improve National Disease Surveillance System for Native Americans; 2) Insure Adequate Coverage for Native Americans in the Reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act; 3) Bring AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Coverage to the Indian Health Care System; and 4) Educate Tribal Leaders about HIV/AIDS and Potential Impact upon Tribal Health Budgets and other impacts; and
- WHEREAS**, these priorities were supported in hearings held at the 2nd National Native American HIV/AIDS Conference in September 1998 and the work of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center are important to the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports and affirms the work of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center; be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"

(USET 99:45)

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Surgeon-General of the U.S., the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist to work with tribes, the National Council for Urban Indian Health, and NNAAPC to improve the nation's disease reporting system for AI/AN populations; be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board requests the U.S. Congress declare a state of emergency and include the tribal, urban, and IHS-operated health care systems in the national AIDS Drug Assistance Program to cover the cost of AIDS drugs and to ask the General Accounting Office for a special study of the extent of need for these drugs in the AI/AN community; be it further

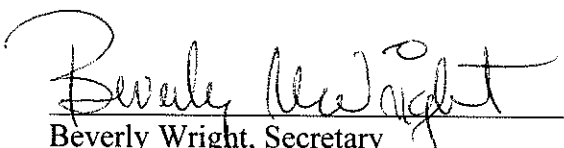
RESOLVED the USET Board calls upon the U.S. Congress to set-aside \$2.5 million in FY 2000 within the Ryan White Care Act Special Projects of National Significance Program to provide ongoing support for AIDS care in tribal, urban, and IHS-operated health care systems, and to insure such health care systems are addressed and funding is appropriated in a separate AI/AN section in any reauthorization of said Act.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL Thursday, June 17, 1999.



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



Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.