



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2000:88

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PRIORITIZE DISABILITY ISSUES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKAN NATIVES

- WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) 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**, Indian Health Services (IHS) maintains the trust responsibility for the health care of American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) maintains the trust responsibility for the welfare and education of American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS**, IHS recipients receive one-third the health care that Medicaid recipients receive; and
- WHEREAS**, due to the high rate of disability and lack of understanding of the rehabilitation needs of American Indian people with disabilities and elders, the IHS and BIA must address disability as a short and long term priority; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors, on behalf of American Indians with disabilities and elders assert that the IHS and BIA prioritize disability issues by attending and actively participating in discussions at all levels including interagency work groups addressing disability issues; be it further
- RESOLVED** that by prioritizing disability issues for American Indian people with disabilities and elders, the IHS and BIA will also begin to develop policies and procedures that specifically address disability issues.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, TX Thursday, June 8, 2000.

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

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