



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2001:051

SUPPORT FOR S. 550 - INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE SERVICES AMENDMENTS OF 2001

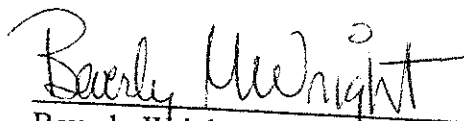
- WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, in 1980 Congress enacted the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act, which provides entitlement funding for foster care and adoption assistance services for income eligible children placed by states; and
- WHEREAS**, Title IV-E provides funding only to states, thereby forcing tribes to enter into agreements with states to receive those funds, affording no opportunity for tribes to receive direct funding; and
- WHEREAS**, only 70 tribes nationwide have been able to negotiate Title IV-E agreements with states, and some of those agreements allow only partial access to this funding; and
- WHEREAS**, tribal governments have a responsibility to provide services to Indian children and families who are under their care and jurisdiction, specifically those children who have been removed from the birth family homes and placed in foster care; and
- WHEREAS**, because of limited funding to operate foster care or adoption assistance services, tribes often have to turn over custody of their children to state child welfare programs to receive foster care services or ask tribally certified foster families to take in Indian children without the benefit of basic foster care payments; and;
- WHEREAS**, the Indian and Alaskan Native Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Services Amendments (S. 550), introduced in the U.S. Senate on March 15, 2001, amends Title IV-E to allow tribes the opportunity to either directly apply to the federal government for such entitlement funds or to continue the Title IV-E agreements they have with states; and
- WHEREAS**, S. 550 also allows tribes to designate their service populations, use their foster care standards, apply as part of a consortium, and use a variety of funding sources to assist in meeting the match requirements of Title IV-E; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors does hereby support the passage of S. 550, and other legislation that would achieve this same purpose.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2001.



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



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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*