



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2002:028

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

**WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Indian Health Service (IHS) holds the highest direct federal responsibility for the health status of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and

**WHEREAS**, the IHS is one of two major agencies within the United States government, whose sole focus is to serve federally-recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages, the other being the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is administratively responsible for the IHS agency operations but the Director of IHS does not report directly to the Secretary; and

**WHEREAS**, USET strongly believes the lack of direct access to the Secretary from the lead Indian health program advocate is not in the best interest of AI/AN tribes/villages; and

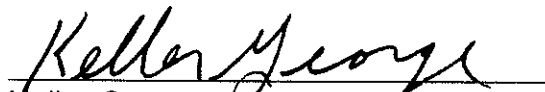
**WHEREAS**, the USET membership does not believe the elevation of the IHS Director to the level of Assistant Secretary will have a negative impact on tribal ability to exercise their right of self-determination under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA); and

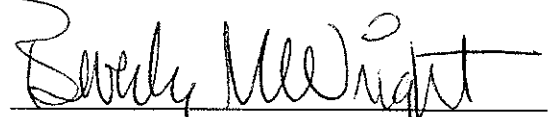
**WHEREAS**, the USET membership has not realized a negative impact on the implementation of the ISDEAA within the BIA and the BIA top official is an Assistant Secretary who reports directly to the Secretary of the Department of Interior (DOI); therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors hereby recommends and supports the passage of the current bill before Congress, which elevates the IHS Director to the Assistant Secretary level within the DHHS.

### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL, on Thursday, October 25, 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”*