



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2002:039

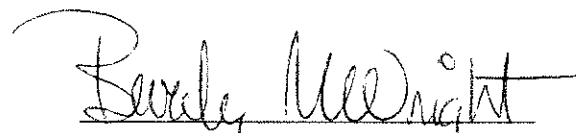
### WELFARE REFORM REAUTHORIZATION

- 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 comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the major programs in the basic federal welfare law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2002 and must be reauthorized during the coming session of the U.S. Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** in many respects PRWORA has proven inadequate in meeting the needs of Indian families and Indian communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Social Services Committee has reviewed Resolution #SPO-01-058 of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which was adopted by its General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session on November 25-30, 2001 (copy attached); and
- WHEREAS,** said resolution contains specific amendments to be considered before reauthorization of PRWORA; and
- WHEREAS,** said amendments are necessary to ensure that PRWORA meets the needs of Indian families and Indian communities; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports Resolution # SPO-01-058 ("Welfare Reform Reauthorization") of the National Congress of American Indians.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, January 31, 2002.

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

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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-058**

**Title: Welfare Reform Reauthorization**

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the major programs in the basic federal welfare law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2002 and must be reauthorized during the coming session of the U.S. Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, in many respects PRWORA has proven to be inadequate to meet the needs of Indian families and Indian communities; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments are committed to: strengthening Indian families; protecting the interests of Indian children; promoting family self-sufficiency; substantially reducing dependence on public assistance; and developing economically prosperous and culturally thriving Indian communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration and the Congress have the responsibility to consult with tribes in developing a new welfare law.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby insist that any new welfare reform legislation fully support the government-to-government relationship between tribal governments and the U.S. government; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports adequate funding for the full range of services required to meet the needs of impoverished Indian families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports funding for the legal, economic and service delivery infrastructure needed by tribes, including start-up and capacity-building funds, to assume full responsibility for the many functions and services involved in welfare reform; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports direct funding for tribal governments from all federal programs that provide needed support services to children and families receiving welfare services, such as the Title IV-E foster care program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports an expanded recognition of the responsibility of tribal governments, authorizing tribes, at their option, to determine eligibility for the food stamp and Medicaid programs and facilitating the ability of tribes to administer the food stamp and Medicaid by waiving federal matching fund requirements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports the inclusion of provisions in any future welfare reform law, giving flexibility to adapt federal resources to individual tribal needs at the local level; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports provisions which will enable tribes, at their option, to include funding for all service programs related to welfare reform under their self-governance compacts and/or P.L. 102-477 integrated service plans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports provisions which provide tribes the right to be consulted by federal and state governments on all policies which affect Indian people; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports tribal-specific programs and funding in any future welfare reform law to address the serious economic deprivation in Indian communities which makes it difficult or impossible to transition Indian people from welfare to work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports provisions which encourage constructive cooperation between tribal and state governments in furthering self-sufficiency for Indian people and to encourage state governments to assist tribal TANF programs with funding deficiencies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports making the reduction of poverty for all Americans a fundamental goal of welfare reform; and