



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2002:095


### **SUPPORT AND ENDORESEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE SPECIAL DIABETES GRANT PROGRAM FOR INDIANS AND INCREASE FUNDING**

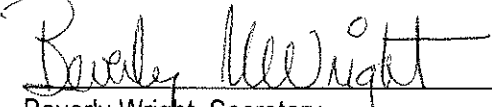
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** in an effort to address the diabetes epidemic in Indian Country Congress appropriated \$150 million in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 over a five year period to the Public Health Service (PHS); and
- WHEREAS,** because diabetes is so rampant in Indian communities and \$30 million per year was not enough funding to make an adequate impact on the disease at the tribal level the Congress appropriated an additional \$70 million for the remaining two years of the Special Diabetes Grant Program and added a one-year extension through the Balanced Budget Act of 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** a proposal to extend the Special Diabetes Grant Program for Indians for an additional 10 years, which has been endorsed by the American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the professional groups that are considered "Friends of Indian Health", Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, National Indian Health Board and the Indian Health Service; and
- WHEREAS,** the extension proposal would also increase the funding from \$100 million per year to \$200 million per year; and
- WHEREAS,** much work remains to be completed beyond fiscal year 2003 and it is difficult to demonstrate impacts on the high rate of diabetes within Indian communities after only six years of funding to address the epidemic; and
- WHEREAS,** studies have shown that diabetes is one of the most devastating and costly diseases to treat; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Special Diabetes Program for Indians be granted an extension for an additional 10 years with funding increased to \$200 million per year beginning in fiscal year 2004 because this program is absolutely critical in allowing tribal communities to attack the diabetes epidemic in a comprehensive manner at the local level; and, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly encourages Congress, the Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services to support and endorse the extension and increase of the Diabetes Special Grant Program for Indians; and, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors extends their appreciation for the efforts of Congress, the Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services to assist American Indian/Alaska Native Communities to address this devastating epidemic and eliminate health disparities.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, Thursday, June 13, 2002.

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

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