



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:111

ENDORSEMENT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS BASED BUDGET

- 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,** since at least 1975 the fundamental policy of Congress with respect to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes/villages has been to encourage the policy of self-determination and self-governance; and
- WHEREAS,** this policy intends to transfer effective control and operation of programs previously controlled and operated by the federal government for the benefit of AI/AN people; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal governments are locally based and therefore are in the best position to know the needs of the AI/AN people; and
- WHEREAS,** an \$19.5 billion Indian Health Service FY 2005 budget submission has been developed in consultation with tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** this is the fifth year that AI/AN tribal governments have sent forward the \$19.5 billion needs based budget request to no avail; and
- WHEREAS,** the needs based budget has been endorsed by the National Indian Health Board, National Congress of American Indians, Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee and National Council on Urban Indians, and has been presented to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Management and Budget; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors endorses the \$19.5 billion FY 2005 IHS needs based budget; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly encourages the Administration, Congress, DHHS and OMB to recognize the need for this budget to raise the health status of AI/AN people and achieve the goal of eliminating racial disparities in health care.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Choctaw, MS, Thursday, June 5, 2003.

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”