



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. 2005:025

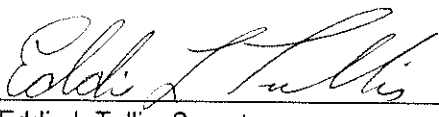
SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

- 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 1976 the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) has provided a detailed structure for addressing the health care needs of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in a manner consistent with the federal responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHCIA was last reauthorized in 1992 and the current authorization for appropriations in the Act expired on September 30, 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** the reauthorization of the IHCIA bill as drafted by House Legislative Counsel in consultation with the National Steering Committee was introduced in the 108th Congressional session; and
- WHEREAS,** the bill was substantially changed to reflect concerns from the Administration and was reported out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (S556) and House Committee on Resources (HR 2440); and
- WHEREAS,** although the Administration expressed support for the bill, their last minute concerns stalled the bill and it was declared dead at the end of the 108th Congressional session; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have made significant concessions during the five-year process of attempting to obtain Reauthorization of the IHCIA, but steadfastly refuse to retract from current and/or existing law; and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorization of the IHCIA is essential to maintaining the federal policy of raising the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; and
- WHEREAS,** the newly appointed Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, Mr. Claude Allen, the newly elected Chairman for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Mr. John McCain, and a long standing member of the House Native American Caucus, Mr. Patrick Kennedy, have expressed support for the passage of an IHCIA bill on behalf of the Administration and Congress, respectively; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the introduction, passage and enactment of a bill similar to or stronger than S556.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 10, 2005.


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


Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”