



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:019

SUPPORT FOR THE EXEMPTION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FROM RESCISSIONS APPLIED TO BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

- 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 budget appropriation for the Indian Health Service (IHS) supports tribal programs, services, functions and activities, which predominately include provision of health care services to an already under-served at risk population; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHS is currently funded at approximately 18 percent of estimated need and the anticipated across the board rescission will further erode a chronically under-funded program; and
- WHEREAS,** the provision of health care services to American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) is further diminished when Commission Corps Officers working on behalf of the IHS at Tribal sites and within the IHS are deployed to assist in crisis situations such as the war in Iraq and the results of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and
- WHEREAS,** AI/ANs have historically been actively involved in protecting our Nation and have provided our languages and manpower through active combat during wartimes and other crisis situations affecting the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** many Tribes located in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi were adversely affected by the hurricanes; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have no problem contributing to the enormous efforts required to assist the Iraqi people to obtain their independence and restoring the structures devastated by the hurricanes, but are steadfast in their belief that they are contributing double what other populations are providing; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls for the exemption of the IHS from rescissions to budget authority due to the fact that the IHS is contributing double because the funding base continues to erode and their manpower resources continue to be adversely affected due to deployment of IHS Commission Corps Officers; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the efforts of the United States Government to assist foreign nations and rebuild devastated U.S. cities, but not at the expense of funding appropriated to provide much needed health care services to American Indian/Alaska Natives.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Orlando, Florida, on Thursday, October 13, 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”