



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

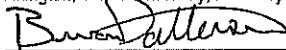
USET Resolution No. 2007-043

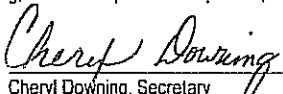
SUPPORT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

- 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,** the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) has since 1976 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,** mainstream American health care has moved out of the hospitals and into people's homes, and modernization of AI/AN health care is needed to uphold the federal government's 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 Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (S. 1057) in consultation with the National Steering Committee was introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congressional session; and
- WHEREAS,** a companion bill to S. 1057 was introduced in the House in June 2006, (H.R. 5312). The bill was favorably reported out of the Resources Committee and referred to the Energy and Commerce and Ways & Means Committees, but no further action was taken; and
- WHEREAS,** S. 1057 was "hotlined" as an Amendment in the Nature of Complete Substitute, incorporating amendments from the Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committees; and
- WHEREAS,** during the last day of 109<sup>th</sup> Congressional session, two holds remained on the bill and time ran out before issues could be resolved and the bill was declared dead; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have made significant concessions during the six-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 elected Chairman for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Honorable Byron Dorgan, has expressed support for the passage of an IHCIA bill on behalf of the Congress, respectively; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the introduction, passage and enactment of a bill similar to or stronger than S. 1057 in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congressional session.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007.

  
Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

  
Cheryl Downing, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*