



USET Resolution No. 2008:033

**SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM  
FOR INDIANS INCLUDING CONTINUED FUNDING AT A LEVEL OF  
\$200 MILLION PER YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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,** American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) people carry the heaviest burden of diabetes in the United States, suffering from the highest rates of diabetes in the world. In some AI/AN communities, the diabetes prevalence rate among adults is as high as 60%; and
- WHEREAS,** diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for AI/AN communities, with a mortality rate 4.6 times higher than the U.S. general population and the epidemic continues to grow; and
- WHEREAS,** in an attempt to address the diabetes epidemic in Indian Country, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$30 million in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Congress authorized the Indian Health Service (IHS) to develop and implement the Special Diabetes Program for Indians utilizing the funds appropriated in the 1997 BBA; and
- WHEREAS,** because diabetes is so prevalent in Indian communities and \$30 million per year was not enough funding to make an adequate impact at the local level, the U.S. Congress appropriated an additional \$70 million in 2001 and another \$50 million in 2002, bringing the total amount available to \$150 million per year through Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, and was extending in December 2007 for one year, carrying programs through 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have made significant strides to improving diabetes treatment and prevention during the ten year time span of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, but recognize that more work is needed; and
- WHEREAS,** results from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians programs offer hope for prevention since there is still no cure for diabetes; and
- WHEREAS,** loss of funding would be devastating and even more costly to both Tribal Governments and the Nation because all of the gains made with the current funding would be lost; and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians funding at a level of \$200 million per year for the next five years, beginning in FY 2010, is essential to continue to improve the current health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; therefore,
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Administration and Congress to support and consult with Tribal Governments in the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians at a level of \$200 million per year for five years; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that Congress develop appropriations language removing the mandate requiring competition for funding.

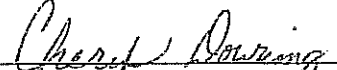
*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.



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



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