



USET Resolution No. 2008:034


**SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT**

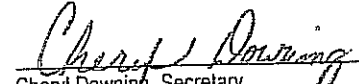
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** 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,** the 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 that 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 the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (S. 1200) in consultation with the National Steering Committee was introduced in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congressional session; and
- WHEREAS,** a companion bill to S. 1200 was introduced on the House side in April 2007 (H.R. 1328). The bill was favorably reported out of the health subcommittee of Energy & Commerce with amendments and was referred to the full Energy & Commerce committee, but no further action was taken; and
- WHEREAS,** the Chairman for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator Byron Dorgan (ND), has continued his efforts to obtain passage of an IHCIA bill on behalf of the Congress, respectively; and
- WHEREAS,** Senator Dorgan, along with several cosponsors, introduced S. 1200 on the Senate floor on January 22, 2008; and
- WHEREAS,** after several days of debate and floor statements, S. 1200 was put on hold due to other pending legislation that the Senate needed to act upon. However, S. 1200 is expected to be brought back to the floor the week of February 11, 2008; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have and continue to make significant concessions during the seven-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; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors encourages and supports the passage of S. 1200 and H.R. 1328 in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congressional session.

*"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.

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

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