



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

Nashville, TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
P: 615-872-7900 | F: 615-872-7417

Washington, DC Office
1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036

USET SPF Resolution No. 2023 SPF:002

SUPPORT FOR THE DELIVERY OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS FUNDING THROUGH CONTRACTS AND COMPACTS UNDER THE INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian and Alaskan Natives (AI/ANs) have the highest rates of diabetes in the world, with a prevalence rate among adults as high as 60%; and
- WHEREAS,** diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for AI/AN communities, which also have a mortality rate 4.8 times higher than the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** in response to the disproportionately high rate of type-2 diabetes in AI/AN communities, Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act in 1997 establishing the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) as a grant program for the prevention and treatment of diabetes; and
- WHEREAS,** since its establishment, SDPI's modest federal investment in community-directed solutions has proven to be valuable at the national, regional, and local levels in the prevention and management of type 2 diabetes; and
- WHEREAS,** administered by the Indian Health Service (IHS), SDPI funding has been distributed via grants to IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs for diabetes treatment and prevention since its inception in 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** grant funding fails to reflect the unique nature of the federal trust obligation and Tribal sovereignty by treating Tribal Nations as non-profits rather than governments and forcing Tribal Nations to compete for dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** after hundreds of years of federal policymaking that undermined our sovereignty, the 1975 passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) was a step toward full recognition of the inherent sovereignty and self-determination of Tribal Nations and marked a fundamental change in federal Indian policy; and
- WHEREAS,** in accordance with our effort to modernize the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations, USET SPF has consistently urged that all federal funding be eligible for inclusion in self-governance contracts and compacts under ISDEAA, rather

than grants, in recognition of the retained sovereign authority of Tribal Nations and reflective of 21st century self-determination; and

WHEREAS, SDPI's grant application and reporting requirements are burdensome, not reflective of our sovereign status, and undermine service delivery, as staff time is dedicated to these grant-related tasks; and

WHEREAS, the administrative burden of current reporting requirements under ISDEAA including site visits, "means testing," or other inapplicable standards developed unilaterally by Congress or federal officials are barriers to efficient self-governance and do not reflect our government-to-government relationship; and

WHEREAS, because federal Indian funding is provided in fulfillment of clear legal and historic obligations, it should not be subject to these unnecessary standards; and

WHEREAS, USET SPF is ultimately seeking the receipt of federal dollars through mechanisms that reflect a commitment to nation-rebuilding, rather than the granular measures and outcomes of a grants-based mentality; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED USET SPF urges Congress and the Indian Health Service to explore opportunities to better recognize and promote Tribal self-governance and self-determination by authorizing the funding distribution of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians via contracts and compacts under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and be it further

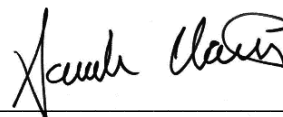
RESOLVED USET SPF urges the legislative and executive branches to move beyond the current limitations of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, so that sovereignty may be exercised to its fullest extent.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation at which a quorum was present on October 13, 2022.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund

Because there is Strength in Unity