



USET Resolution No. 2011:007

SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

- 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 Alaska Native (AI/AN) people carry the heaviest burden of diabetes in the United States (U.S.), 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 2009, which was extended in 2008 for two additional years, carrying programs through 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** the Special Diabetes Program for Indians has been very successful and program results offer hope for prevention since there is still no cure for diabetes; and
- WHEREAS,** this vital program is scheduled to expire in 2011 and 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,** Representative Dianna DeGette (D-CO), on behalf of Representatives Michael Castle (R-DE), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Zack Space (D-OH), Tom Cole (R-OK), Dale Kildee (D-MI), and Xavier Becerra (D-CA), introduced H.R. 3668 on September 29, 2009, to amend the Public Health Service Act and Reauthorize the Special Diabetes Programs for Type I Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians under that Act; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 3668, if enacted, would reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians until 2016 and authorize \$200 million per year for the program, which would increase the funding authorization for the program by \$50 million; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians is a top priority for USET and Indian Country and is essential to improving the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports and urges Congress to Reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (H.R. 3668) within the 111th Congressional Session.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”