



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

USET Resolution No. 2010:038

SUPPORT OF 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, 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; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2008 the special diabetes program was extended for two additional years, beyond fiscal year 2009, carrying programs through 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** the Special Diabetes Program for Indians has been very successful and results from the programs offer hope for prevention since there is still no cure for diabetes and this vital program is scheduled to expire in 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** loss of funding would be devastating and even more costly to both Tribal Governments and the United States because all of the gains made with the current funding would be lost; and
- WHEREAS,** Representative Dianna DeGette (D-CO) 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; H.R. 3668 currently has 270 co-sponsors; and
- WHEREAS,** a similar companion bill, S. 3058 was introduced in the U.S. Senate on March 2, 2010 by Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and currently has 58 co-sponsors; and

- WHEREAS,** H.R. 3668 and S. 3058, 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 urges passage of H.R. 3668 and S. 3058 within the 111th Congressional Session.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Mobile, Alabama on Thursday, June 17, 2010.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”