



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:042

URGING THE EXEMPTION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FROM SEQUESTRATION

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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,** since the formation of the Union, the United States (U.S.) has recognized Indian Tribes as sovereign nations; and
- WHEREAS,** a unique government-to-government relationship exists between Indian Tribes and the Federal Government and is grounded in the U.S. Constitution, numerous treaties, statutes, Federal case law, regulations and executive orders that establish and define a trust relationship with Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** although the trust relationship requires the Federal Government to provide for the health and welfare of Tribal nations, the Indian Health Service (IHS) remains chronically underfunded, and American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from among the lowest health status nationally; and
- WHEREAS,** on August 2, 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** the BCA imposed caps on discretionary appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012 and created a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (Joint Committee) tasked with devising a plan to reduce the national deficit by an additional \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years; and
- WHEREAS,** the failure of the Joint Committee and a subsequent lack of Congressional action resulted in the inexact application of 5.2% in across-the-board cuts, known as Sequestration, to nearly all Fiscal Year 2013 discretionary spending accounts, including the IHS; and
- WHEREAS,** the cuts of Sequestration will devastate the operation and implementation of planned health programs, resulting in an estimated 3,000 fewer inpatient admissions and 804,000 outpatient admissions throughout the Indian Health System; and
- WHEREAS,** other patient care and assistance programs have been statutorily exempted in full from Sequestration, including the Veterans Administration (VA) medical accounts, Child Nutrition Program, Child Care Block Grants, Grants to States for Medicaid, Social Security Insurance, Social Security, Medicare benefits and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), making IHS the only non-exempt provider of direct care; and

WHEREAS, exempting the IHS from Sequestration will save the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the nation, and reflect an effort to uphold the federal trust responsibility; 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

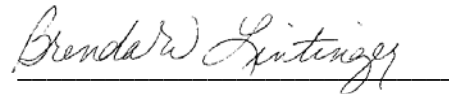
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors urges Congress to immediately pass an amendment to the Budget Control Act exempting the Indian Health Service services and facilities budgets from these devastating cuts, or enact legislation to meet the deficit reduction requirements of the Deficit Control Act via a combination of responsible budget cuts and revenue-raising measures while protecting the Indian Health Service budget.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Niagara Falls, NY, on Friday, May 17, 2013.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”