



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2013:043

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-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,** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) peoples 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 peoples, with a mortality rate 4.8 times higher than the U.S. general population; 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 this was extended in 2008 and 2011 for two additional years, and again in 2013 for one year, carrying programs through to 2014; 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
- WHEREAS,** through the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, the average blood sugar levels have decreased a full percentage point since 1996 and research shows that a one unit decrease in A1c levels translates to a 40% reduction in diabetes-related complications such as blindness, kidney failure, nerve disease, and amputations; and
- WHEREAS,** this vital program is scheduled to expire in 2014 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, prompt reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians is a top priority for USET and Indian Country which is essential to improving the health status of AI/AN peoples to the highest possible level; 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 supports and urges Congress to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program prior to its expiration in September 2014.

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”