



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

Nashville TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100
Nashville TN 37214
P: (615) 872-7900
F: (615) 872-7417

Washington DC Office
400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585
Washington DC 20001
P: (202) 624-3550
F: (202) 393-5218

USET SPF Resolution No. 2018 SPF:014


SUPPORT OF S. 2270 MITIGATING THE METHAMPHETAMINE EPIDEMIC AND PROMOTING TRIBAL HEALTH ACT AND SIMILAR LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

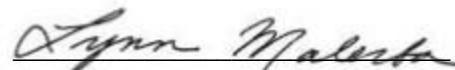
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States government has a unique trust responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs), founded in treaties and other historical relations with Tribal Nations. This trust relationship is reflected in numerous statutes as well as upheld in federal Indian law and policy; and
- WHEREAS,** the opioid epidemic has had a devastating effect on USET SPF Tribal Nations which often lack sufficient resources to address the destructive effects of opioid abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** addiction and death from opioid abuse have reached epidemic levels within USET SPF Tribal Nations. According to mortality analyses conducted within USET's Tribal Epidemiology Center, 9% of all deaths among USET SPF Tribal Nations were linked in some way to substance abuse between 2002 and 2012. Almost one in five substance use deaths were attributable to opioids, including heroin, with the vast majority of opioid deaths, 93%, related to prescription drugs; and
- WHEREAS,** according to data from the Indian Health Service (IHS), AI/ANs are more likely than any other race/ethnicity to have an illicit drug use disorder in the past year. In addition, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AI/ANs are at the greatest risk for prescription opioid overdose, confronting an opioid overdose rate of 8.4 per 100,000; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis report to President Donald Trump, in 2016 the rate of illicit drug use for AI/ANs ages 12 and up, when asked about the previous 30 days, was 15.7%, the highest among all racial groups; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the disproportionate impact the opioid crisis has had in Indian Country, Tribal Nations are frequently excluded from collaborative efforts by federal, state and local governments to address the opioid epidemic through coordinated responses; and
- WHEREAS,** the 21st Century Cures Act was enacted in 2016, authorizing \$1 billion in funding over two years to address the nationwide opioid epidemic; and

- WHEREAS,** current federal grant programs directed at addressing the opioid crisis require funding to pass through the states before it can delivered to Tribal Nations. Despite Tribal advocacy, Tribal Nations are ineligible for a majority of funding delivered to state and local governments under the 21st Century Cures Act; and
- WHEREAS,** on December 21, 2017, Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) introduced bipartisan legislation, S. 2270, the Mitigating the Methamphetamine Epidemic and Promoting Tribal Health Act, or Mitigating METH Act, which would make Tribal Nations eligible to be direct grantees of funding under the 21st Century Cures Act in their efforts to combat opioid abuse in their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** S. 2270 provides an increase in grant funding of \$25 million to states and Tribal Nations under the State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis within the 21st Century Cures Act; and
- WHEREAS,** a House companion bill, or similar legislation, to S. 2270 is expected to be introduced in February 2018; 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 SPF Board of Directors supports S. 2270, the Mitigating the Methamphetamine Epidemic and Promoting Tribal Health Act, as well as any House companion or similar legislation that would make Tribal Nations eligible to be direct grantees of federal funding to address the opioid epidemic; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon Congress to include Tribal Nations as full partners in the fight to end the devastating opioid epidemic, thus avoiding major gaps in the ability of the United States to eradicate opioid addiction in this country.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 8, 2018.


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


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund

Because there is Strength in Unity