



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2013:046**

#### **SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE**

- 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,** since Fiscal Year 1998, appropriated funds for the provision of health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives through IHS and Tribal providers have been released after the beginning of the new fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** the delay in receipt of funds has most often been caused by a Congressional failure to enact prompt appropriations legislation; and
- WHEREAS,** late funding has severely hindered Tribal and IHS health care providers' budgeting, recruitment, retention, provision of services, facility maintenance, and construction efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** identified budgetary solutions to this failure to uphold the federal trust responsibility include a two-year funding cycle, advance appropriations, and forward funding for the IHS; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress has recognized the difficulties inherent in the provision of direct health care that relies on the appropriations process and traditional funding cycle through enactment of the *Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (PL 111-81)*, which authorized advance appropriations for Veterans Administration (VA) medical care programs; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress has, pursuant to the authorization in the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, appropriated beginning with FY 2010, advance appropriations for the VA medical care accounts; and

**WHEREAS,** as the only other federally funded provider of direct health care, IHS should be afforded the same budgetary certainty and protections extended to the VA; 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

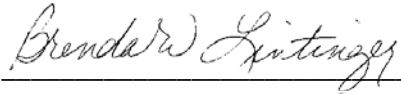
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the U.S. Congress to bring certainty and stability to the Indian Health Service budget by authorizing and appropriating funding for a two-year funding cycle, advance appropriations, or forward funding for the Indian Health Service.

**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”*