



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 94-08-DC

BUDGET REDUCTION/THIRD PARTY/HEALTH SECURITY ACT

WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-one (21) federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and

WHEREAS, USET is firmly committed to the goal of advancing the health care status of Indian people to the highest level possible; and

WHEREAS, the USET Board has established the USET Health Directors' Committee for the purpose of reviewing issues of concern and policy regarding health care programs for and/or affecting USET member tribes, and to provide the Board with proposed recommendations and resolutions for the Board's consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget proposes to reduce the IHS Budget in FY 1995 of \$247 million, and coupled with the significant FTE reduction imposed by Clinton's Administration; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton's proposed Health Security Act addresses the role of the IHS and tribal governments in the new national health care system while President Clinton's proposed budgets for the IHS will undermine the ability of the IHS and tribal governments to function in the new system; and

WHEREAS, after close scrutiny of the issue involving health care reform in Indian country, concludes that the Comprehensive Benefits Package and wrap-around services provided in the Health Security Act cannot feasibly be delivered in light of planned FTE reduction within IHS and coupled with the FY 1995 planned budget reductions for IHS by OMB; and

"Because there is strength in Unity"

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WHEREAS, there appears to be a lack of coordination between the Clinton Administration's Indian health care policies as reflected in the contradiction between the role envisioned for the IHS and tribal governments outlined in the Health Security Act and the proposed annual budgets for the IHS for fiscal years 1994 and 1995; and

WHEREAS, the OMB assumes tribes can realistically collect additional third party revenues of \$276 million in FY 1995 and further OMB recommends the use of third party revenue collected by tribes be used to offset the budgets; and

WHEREAS, USET views that the FY 1995 budget proposal could result in a total shortfall for the Indian health care delivery system of \$385 million in FY 1995 alone and would further adversely affect the full funding of 100 percent of Contract Support Costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET urges the President, OMB and the U.S. Congress incorporate explicitly the 1992 Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act which would mandate 100 percent funding of the established Indian health care needs that would reaffirm:

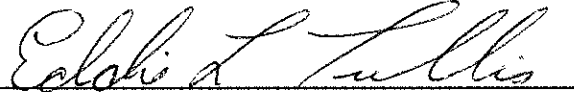
1. The unique government-to-government relationship existing between tribes and the federal government.
2. Restore full 100 percent of the health care need of American Indians/Alaska Natives to meet the comprehensive benefits package proposed by the Clinton Administration.
3. That the Health Security Act would mandate a separate and improved funding mechanism for IHS based on level of need that reflects the government's intention to uphold its federal trust responsibility.
4. That funding at 100 percent level will stem the potential loss of tribal patients to other providers which would eventually be compromised by the existing underfunded Indian health care delivery system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 1) USET opposes the OMB recommendations to use all third party revenues as an offset in the FY 1995 budget thus further crippling the ability of tribes to deliver the already inadequately funded health care; and 2) USET urges funding of 100 percent Contract Support Costs in FY 1995 and its continued funding in subsequent years in the IHS budget.

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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Washington Impact Week meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C., on February 24, 1994.



Eddie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Keller George, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.