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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 94-09-DC

FUNDING AND STAFFING REDUCTIONS IN THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

- 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 DHHS has been ordered to reduce total DHHS FTEs by 5,200 (-4 percent) by FY 1995, but the IHS has been ordered to reduce IHS staff by 1,099 FTEs (-9 percent), which is inequitable; and
- WHEREAS, the IHS will end up absorbing one-fifth of the entire DHHS FTE reduction (1,009/5,200 = 21 percent), which is inequitable; and
- WHEREAS, the Nashville Area IHS has been ordered to reduce staffing in the Nashville Area by 32 FTEs by the end of FY 1995 from 338 FTEs to 306 FTEs; and
- WHEREAS, the FTE reduction, if implemented in the Nashville Area, will negatively impact health delivery services of IHS/Tribal Service Units and will lower the quality of services available to Indian tribes in USET the service area need is 338 FTEs and will adversely affect recruitment and retention abilities of Service Units and Health Clinics; and

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- WHEREAS, the IHS FTE reductions will further reduce the resources for IHS programs which are already underfunded and will cause problems in recruitment and retention of key health positions within Service Units and Health Clinics and will severely affect the ability to utilize the IPA and MOA process; and
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United South and Eastern Tribes, representing tribal governments in the IHS Nashville Area call upon President Clinton, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget to:
 - 1. Grant a waiver to exempt the Indian Health Service from the FTE reductions under Executive Order 12839;
 - 2. Stop the plans to reduce the IHS budget and FTEs during the next several years.

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.