



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2001:22

**SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE
IMPROVEMENT ACT**

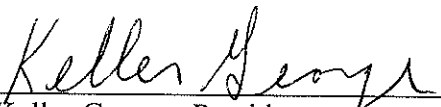
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Care Improvement Act has since 1976 provided a detailed structure for addressing the health care needs of American Indian/Alaska Native people in a manner consistent with the federal responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** authorization for appropriations in the Act is currently set to expire on September 30, 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** the bill developed by the National Tribal Steering Committee for the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act has been introduced in the House of Representatives as H.R. 3397 and (with some modifications) in the Senate as S. 2526; and
- WHEREAS,** former Chief Joyce Dugan, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and former Chairman Eddie Tullis, Poarch Band of Creek Indians were involved in the development of the National Steering Committee bill through participation on the National Tribal Steering Committee on behalf of the USET member tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors endorses the enactment of the National Steering Committee bill and supports the modifications therein, which are intended to (1) increase the number of Indians involved in health professions; (2) improve the delivery of health services and increase the tribal consultation requirements relevant to health services delivery; (3) identify the total health facility deficiency in Indian country and authorize innovative approaches to health facility construction financing without waiving the federal responsibility to provide health services under existing federal law; (4) increase access to Medicare, Medicaid and other third party reimbursements for health services to AI/AN people; (5) increase access to health services for urban AI/AN people without reducing federal support for health care to tribal AI/AN people; (6) establish the Indian Health Service (IHS) as an agency of the Public Health Service; (7) comprehensive behavioral health program; and (8) establish a commission to study the issue of how the federal government's obligation to provide health care to AI/AN people should be maintained as an entitlement and to provide for negotiated rulemaking on critical health care issues; and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is essential to maintain the federal policy of raising the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level and the Steering Committee bill removes barriers to improvements in such status as identified above;
- WHEREAS,** the National Steering Committee bill takes account of the development of the federal policy of tribal self-determination and self-governance, which has developed since the original Indian Health Care Improvement Act was enacted and seeks to assure that health programs reflect tribal and urban decision-making to the maximum feasible extent; therefore, be it

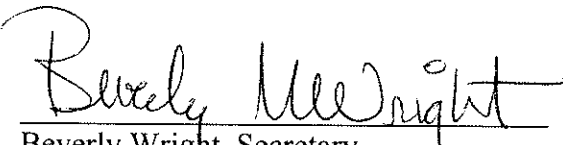
“Because there is strength in Unity”

RESOLVED, that the USET Board of Directors supports the enactment of the National Steering Committee bill and urges the Congress to approve the bill without changes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY on Thursday, November 2, 2000.


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


Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.