



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2002:042

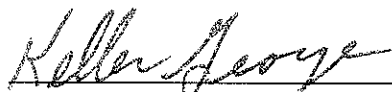
OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE)

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of 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 USET Education Committee has deemed the spiritual, physical, and social well being of American Indian children a high priority; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bush Administration has proposed a potential transfer of the Head Start program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Indian Head Start Director's Association, the National Head Start Association, the National Indian Education Association, and the National Congress of American Indians have opposed transferring this office out of its present location; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Head Start programs, as with their Non-Indian counterparts, focus on the health and social needs of impoverished children, their families, and their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Head Start programs have a proven record of enhancing school readiness and self worth of Indian children; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Head Start programs provide a unique opportunity to enhance cultural pride and knowledge through the promotion of tribal values and tribal language programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the HHS has made a strong commitment to Tribal Head Start programs and their unique needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the HHS has been proactive in its consultation process with tribes and grantees of Tribal Head Start programs; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Head Start programs may lose autonomy on programs and curriculum development under the direction of the DOE, which may include possible infringement on tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start programs for American Indian students may be subject to the same bureaucratic obstacles experienced by other Indian education programs within the Department of Education, therefore , be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors, on behalf of American Indian children, does hereby affirm and support the position of the National Indian Head Start Director's Association, the National Indian Head Start Association, the National Indian Education Association and the National Congress of American Indians; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges Secretary Thompson to retain the Head Start program under HHS.

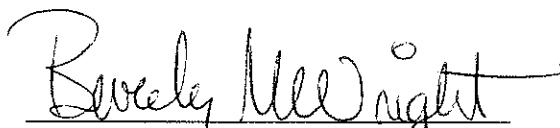
“Because there is strength in Unity”

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington, D.C., Thursday, January 31, 2002.



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



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