



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

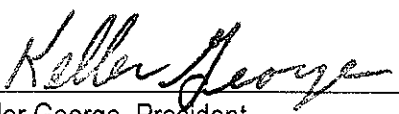
USET Resolution No. 2005:068

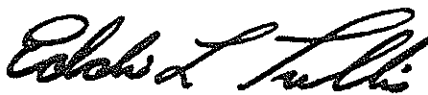
SUPPORT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS INCLUDING CONTINUED FUNDING AT A LEVEL OF \$150 MILLION PER YEAR

- 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,** American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) people are 2.8 times more likely to have a diabetes diagnosis than non-Hispanic whites. Currently, diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for AI/AN communities and the epidemic continues to grow; and
- WHEREAS,** in an attempt to address the diabetes epidemic in Indian Country the U.S. Congress appropriated \$150 million in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 (\$30 million per year over a five-year period); and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Congress authorized the Indian Health Service to develop and implement the Special Diabetes Program for Indians utilizing the funds appropriated in the 1997 BBA; and
- WHEREAS,** because diabetes is so prevalent in Indian communities and \$30 million per year was not enough funding to make an adequate impact at the local level, the U.S. Congress appropriated an additional \$70 million in 2001 and another \$50 million in 2002, bringing the total amount available to \$150 million per year until fiscal year 2008; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have made significant strides to improving diabetes treatment and prevention during the eight-year time span of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, but recognize that more work is needed; and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians funding at a level of \$150 million per year is essential to continue improving the current health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Administration and Congress to support and consult with Tribal Governments in the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians at the current level of \$150 million per year.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present in Mashantucket, CT on Thursday, June 30, 2005.


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


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

“Because there is strength in Unity”