USET Resolution No. 2006:020

SUPPORT FOR AN ANNUAL COMBINED MEETING OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REGIONS I, II, IV AND VI

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 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Indian Tribes share the goals of eliminating health disparities of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and ensuring that the access to healthcare is maximized; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve these goals, it is essential that federally recognized Indian Tribes and HHS engage in open, continuous, and meaningful consultation; and

WHEREAS, effective consultation leads to information exchange, mutual understanding, and informed decision making; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of the United States government to consultation with Indian Tribes has been affirmed in Presidential Memoranda in 1994 and 2004, in Executive Orders issued by the President in 1998 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, HHS adopted a Tribal Consultation Policy on January 14, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Policy requires that each of the HHS Regional offices engage in consultation with Indian Tribes within their respective region; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) Nashville Area is comprised of four regions (I, II, IV and VI) and have in the past held ONE centralized consultation session; and

WHEREAS, the USET member Tribes found the centralized consultation session to be very helpful and allowed for the Tribes to take a unified stance on several pertinent issues; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors urges the HHS Regional offices within the IHS Nashville Area to collaborate with Tribes and discuss options for having one centralized consultation session; and, be it further

RESOLVED that if one centralized consultation session does not take place, the Board of Directors request that individual regional tribal consultation sessions be held as planned.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Orlando, Fl, on Thursday, October 13, 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"