



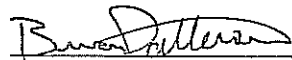
USET Resolution No. 2007:045


SUPPORT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS INCLUDING CONTINUED FUNDING AT A LEVEL OF \$200 MILLION PER YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS

- 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 and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) people are 2.8 times more likely to have a diabetes diagnosis than non-Hispanic whites; and
- WHEREAS,** Currently, diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for AI/AN communities, with a mortality rate 4.3 times higher than the U.S. general population and the epidemic continues to grow; and
- WHEREAS,** in an attempt to address the diabetes epidemic in Indian Country, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$30 million in the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Congress authorized the Indian Health Service (IHS) to develop and implement the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) 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 nine year time span of the SDPI, but recognize that more work is needed; and
- WHEREAS,** results from the SDPI programs offer hope for prevention because there is still no cure for diabetes; and
- WHEREAS,** loss of funding would be devastating and even more costly to both Tribal Governments and the Nation as a whole, because all of the gains made with the current funding would be lost; and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorization of the SDPI funding at a level of \$200 million per year for the next five years, beginning in fiscal year 2009, is essential to continue to improve the current health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** 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 a level of \$200 million per year for five years.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting at which a quorum was present in Arlington, VA on Thursday, February 15, 2007.


Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"