



USET Resolution No. 2008:017

SUPPORT FOR S. 1956 AND H.R. 4688: AMENDMENTS TO PROVIDE DIRECT TITLE IV-E FUNDING TO TRIBES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE SERVICES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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,** in 1981, Congress enacted the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act, which provides entitlement funding for foster care and adoption assistance services for income eligible children placed by states; and
- WHEREAS,** Title IV-E only provides funding to Tribes that have agreements with states, providing no opportunity for Tribes to apply for and directly administer this program without an agreement; and
- WHEREAS,** only 70 Tribes nationwide have been able to secure Title IV-E agreements, with some agreements only allowing partial access to federal entitlement funds and being problematic for states and Tribes in other ways; and
- WHEREAS,** S. 1956 and H.R. 4688 amends Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide Tribal Governments the option to apply directly to the Federal Government for these funds, as well as to continue state agreements if the Tribe so chooses; and
- WHEREAS,** S. 1956 and H.R. 4688 also allow Tribes to designate their own service population, foster care standards, apply as part of a Tribal consortium, and use a variety of funding sources to assist in meeting match requirements of Title IV-E; and
- WHEREAS,** USET previously supported direct funding from Title IV-E for Tribal Governments in USET Resolution 2005:046; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that USET supports the passage of S. 1956 and H.R. 4688, the Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access Act of 2007 in the 110th Congress.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.

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

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