USET Resolution No. 2006:034

SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

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, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHICIA) has, since 1976, provided a detailed structure for addressing the health care needs of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in a manner consistent with the federal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the mainstream American health care has moved out of the hospitals and into people's homes, and modernization of AI/AN health care is needed to uphold that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the IHICIA was last reauthorized in 1992, and the current authorization for appropriations in the Act expired on September 30, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the IHICIA bill as drafted by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (S. 1200) in consultation with the National Steering Committee was introduced in the 110th Congressional session; and

WHEREAS, a companion bill to S. 1200 was introduced on the House side in April 2007 (H.R. 1328). The bill was favorably reported out of the health subcommittee of Energy & Commerce with amendments and was referred to the full Energy & Commerce committee, but no further action was taken; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator Byron Dorgan (ND), has continued his efforts to obtain passage of an IHICIA bill on behalf of the Congress, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dorgan, along with several cosponsors, introduced S. 1200 on the Senate floor on January 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, after several days of debate and floor statements, S. 1200 was put on hold due to other pending legislation that the Senate needed to act upon. However, S. 1200 is expected to be brought back to the floor the week of February 11, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Governments have and continue to make significant concessions during the seven-year process of attempting to obtain Reauthorization of the IHICIA, but steadfastly refuse to retract from current and/or existing law; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization of the IHICIA is essential to maintaining the federal policy of raising the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors encourages and supports the passage of S. 1200 and H.R. 1328 in the 110th Congressional session.

"Because there is strength in Unity"
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.