




USET Resolution No. 2008:035

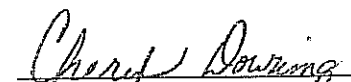
**SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE STATE  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**

- 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 USET member Tribes are dedicated and committed to the needs of their members and the stability and well-being of our Indian children; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Service (IHS) is not adequately funded to cover all health care costs for Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** a vast majority of Tribal families across Indian Country fall at or below the national poverty level and can't afford to contribute to health care costs; and
- WHEREAS,** the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was added on to the Social Security Act of 1997 at an amount of \$40 billion dollars for a ten year period and has since provided health insurance coverage to all low income children who are not Medicaid eligible; and
- WHEREAS,** there are currently 4 million low income children across the United States (U.S) who have been enrolled into SCHIP; and
- WHEREAS,** the loss of this program would severely impact the health care of children across the nation, specifically within our Indian communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments across the nation are appreciative of the year long extension of SCHIP that was included in the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (S. 2499); and
- WHEREAS,** reauthorizing the SCHIP at a level of \$15 billion for the next five years is needed to cover all currently enrolled children; however, an increase to \$50 billion per year for the next five years would be needed to cover all eligible children; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program at a level of \$50 billion 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 14, 2008.

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

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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*