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.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"