USET Resolution No. 2009:031

SUPPORT OF 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 (IHCIA) 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 IHCIA was last reauthorized in 1992 and the current authorization for appropriations in the Act expired on September 30, 2000; and

WHEREAS, during the last hours of the 110th Congressional Session, the bill was declared dead as time ran out; and

WHEREAS, the National Steering Committee met in early February 2009 to discuss the next steps for reauthorization of IHCIA during the 111th Congressional Session and new Administration; and

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

WHEREAS, reauthorization of the IHCIA is essential to maintaining the federal policy of raising the health status of AI/AN people to the highest possible level; and

WHEREAS, the Leadership for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Chairman Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and newly elected Vice-Chairman Senator John Barrasso, (R-WY) have expressed support for the passage of an IHCIA bill on behalf of the Congress, respectively; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports the introduction, passage and enactment of a bill equal to or stronger than S. 1200 in the 111th Congressional Session.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

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

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"