



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.  
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214  
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

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**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 110<sup>th</sup> 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 111<sup>th</sup> 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 111<sup>th</sup> 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"*