



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

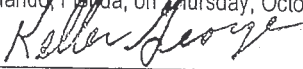
USET Resolution No. 2006:016


FOSTER CARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO DIRECTLY FUND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) 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 Tribes have always supported direct funding to Tribal governments for welfare assistance programs in order to more fully promote self-governance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bush Administration and Congress are making efforts to reform the manner in which Federal child welfare funding is distributed to Tribes and states and the role of courts in overseeing child welfare proceedings; and
- WHEREAS,** these efforts could result in dramatic changes in Federal funding for Tribes and possible changes to state court procedures in child welfare proceedings; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal governments have not been afforded equitable access to a number of essential Federal child welfare programs that are being targeted for change; or Federal resources to support their Tribal court system; and
- WHEREAS,** the Pew Commission on Foster Care conducted a thorough examination of the current child welfare funding system in the United States and the role of court oversight and made several recommendations regarding how to address many of the complex issues of the Federal child welfare reform (see Pew Report at www.nicwa.org/policy/legislation/index.asp); and
- WHEREAS,** the Pew Commission included recommendations in their report to provide Tribal Governments direct access to Federal child welfare programs, such as Title IV-B and IV-E and technical assistance to assist them in their efforts to strengthen their capacity; and
- WHEREAS,** the Pew Commission did not include recommendations regarding the role of Tribal courts in child welfare proceedings, but left it open for further discussion and development within Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the Pew Commission recommendations concerning the direct funding of Tribal governments supports Tribal sovereignty and acknowledges that resources are necessary to exercise that authority; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the Pew Commission Foster Care recommendations to directly fund Tribal governments from Federal child welfare programs and provide assistance to strengthen their capacity.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Orlando, Florida, on Thursday, October 13, 2005.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"