

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16-24

RE: C.R. NO. 16-35/H&SA

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF SALPASR TILFAS - MICARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

The Honorable Isaac V. Figir
Speaker, Sixteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Second Regular Session, 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs ("H&SA"), to which was referred C.R. No. 16-35 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. SALPASR TILFAS TO SERVE AS A MEMBER REPRESENTING THE STATE OF KOSRAE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FSM MICARE, PURSUANT TO TITLE 52 OF THE CODE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AS AMENDED."

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

Mr. Salpasr Tilfas has been nominated by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, at the recommendation of the Governor of Kosrae State, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of MiCare as the representative of the State of Kosrae. Title 52, section 407 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia provides that this nomination is subject to the advice and consent of Congress.

Mr. Tilfas' resume is included in Presidential Communication 16-63 and is summarized here. Since December 2008, Mr. Tilfas has been employed by the College of Micronesia, Office of Human Resources as a Human Resources Specialist. From 1996 to 2008 Mr. Tilfas was the Administrator, Personnel and Employment Services for the Kosrae State Department of Administration and Finance. Mr. Tilfas has served in a number of other positions with Kosrae State as well, including as an Education Specialist and as a classroom teacher.

Mr. Tilfas holds a B.A. in Bilingual Education, Liberal Arts Program from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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On September 24, 2009, your Committee held a hearing with the candidate, which was also attended by Ms. Christina James, Insurance Representative of MiCare and Mr. Bong Mangonon, Controller of MiCare, both representing the Administrator of MiCare (who was off-island and unable to attend). Also present were representatives of the President's Office and the Department of Justice.

When the Committee inquired what goals the Nominee has for the MiCare program, should he be confirmed, the Nominee responded that he is aware that the program has enrolled as members only 20% of the population of the FSM, and that MiCare should be seeking to increase that number. As a Human Resource Specialist at COM-FSM, he is aware that there are probably many more students that could be encouraged to enroll.

The Nominee did not believe he would have any problem representing the concerns of Kosrae State members of MiCare, despite the fact that he lives on Pohnpei, because he remains in email contact frequently with people in Kosrae.

The Nominee assured the Committee that he is not related to the Administrator or to any of the other current Board Members. He also expressed his sincere dedication to work for the best interests of the MiCare program, especially the interests of those insured members from Kosrae State.

CONCLUSION

Based on its consideration of the qualifications of the nominee, your committee on H&SA is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 16-35 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 16-35.

