

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-258

RE: C.R. NO. 18-229/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000, TO FUND THE UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING AND INTERVENTION PROJECT.

NOVEMBER 26, 2014

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert  
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Fifth Special Session, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was jointly referred C.R. No. 18- 229 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, TO FUND THE UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING AND INTERVENTION PROJECT, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE." ,

begs leave to report as follows:

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

On November 25, 2014 your Committee held hearings regarding the above-captioned C.R. No. 18-229 jointly with the Committee on External Affairs. In attendance at the public hearing were the Secretary of Health and Social Affairs, a representative from the Department of Justice, and a representative from the Office of the President. The Secretary of Health and Social Affairs confirmed that this grant is one of two grants that are received each year to test our Nation's newborns' and infants' hearing.

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These grants also provide for further evaluation and intervention if a problem is detected.

Although this program is well known to the Committee it asked that a detailed budget and activities be submitted to it for further evaluation. This was immediately provided to the Committee. A small part of the salaries of four members of the National Department of Health and Social Affairs would be funded by this grant, as well as a portion of the salaries of the project coordinators in each of the four States. The portion of the travel and contractual services budget from this grant would fund trainers and evaluators to review the program in each of the States. The Secretary confirmed, that as in past years, it is the goal of this program to conduct a hearing screening on all newborns. A detailed budget for this grant is attached to the report.

The Committee noted at the hearing that information regarding this grant award and the proposed resolution were not transmitted to the Congress until Friday, November 21, 2014. Again, your Committee requested that the Department of Health and Social Affairs and the Executive in general transmit all information regarding proposed submission of grant applications, acceptance of grant awards and the proposed accompanying resolutions prior to the beginning of the session they would like action taken on these matters.

As to the specific grant that is the subject of this report your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is supportive of the program that it will support. Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purposes of C.R. No. 18-229, and upon concurrence with the Committee on External Affairs recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tony H. Otto  
Tony H. Otto, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, vice chairman

/s/ Peter M. Christian  
Peter M. Christian, member

/s/ Yosiwo P. George  
Yosiwo P. George, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper  
Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member