

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-264

RE: C.R. NO. 18-242/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,492
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES.

JANUARY 28, 2015

The Honorable Dohsis Halbert
Speaker, Eighteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Sixth Regular Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was jointly referred C.R. No. 18- 242 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,492 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO FUND THE ABSTINENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE FSM, 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 January 26, 2015 your Committee held hearings regarding the above-captioned C.R. No. 18-242 jointly with the Committee on External Affairs. In attendance at the public hearing were the relevant staff of Health and Social Affairs, a representative from the Department of Justice and a representative from the Office of the President. The Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that this was a small but would add much needed funding to promote positive activities and education for our youth regarding healthy life styles and choices. This grant will be used to start pilot projects in two States, in this case

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Kosrae and Pohnpei. The Department stated that similar activities in the other two States are funded by another grant. The Committee agrees that health programs for youth are important, and that the services that this grant supports are beneficial. It believes that programs supported by this grant improve the overall health of Nation's citizens. Additional financial support for this program is desirable.

The budget for this grant is attached with this report. The majority of the budget is for contractual services. When asked by the Committee the Department stated that each State is in charge of its selection process for contractual services. The Committee made several further inquiries regarding the selection or bidding process by the State. The concern of the Committee was that the selection process might not be completely based on merit of the contractor. The Committee asked if procedures were in place to prevent nepotism. The Department stated that although the selection process was determined by the State this program had to file performance reports. The Committee was somewhat satisfied with this response, but also requested that the contractors be identified in future budgets and oversight hearings. The Department agreed that ethical contracting regarding the service providers was desirable.

Regarding the subject matter of this grant the Committee asked how training and education regarding sensitive matters such as abstinence was being done at the local level. The Department stated that these trainings were often accomplished in small brake out groups with mother/daughter and father/son pairings to avoid embarrassment. Outcomes have been positive showing a reduction in teen pregnancy, high school drops and sexually transmitted disease. Family involvement has also had the positive affect of better parenting and communication, which as a whole make youth healthier and more successful.

The Committee believes that this program will provide additional positive enforcement for our youth, but wonders how sustainable it will be in 2023. The Department stated that the multi-generational training should help families pass positive training and information through the family. The Department did admit

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that it was still working on how to make programs like this viable in the future.

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. 18-242, 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

Joseph J. Urusemal, member