

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-06

RE: C.R. NO. 19-05/H&SA

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

MAY 29, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
First Regular Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was  
referred C.R. No. 19-05 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION, TO FUND THE UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING  
SCREENING AND INTERVENTION 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 May 27, 2015 your Committee held hearings regarding the  
above-captioned C.R. No. 19-05. In attendance at the  
public hearing were the relevant staff of Health and Social  
Affairs, representatives from the Office of the President,  
Department of Justice and Department of Finance and  
Administration. This grant award will fund a long standing  
program that is well known to your Committee. The

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Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that this program continues to be successful with 94% of children born last year receiving the initial screening. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that the real challenge is contracting out for the specialist to treat and further diagnosis babies and children who are identified by the initial screening as having some hearing deficient. This grant will provide for a limited contract for the specialist.

The attached budget itemizes the supplies and work to be done in each of the four States, including the consulting contract for the specialist. The budget breakdown remains the same as in past years.

While the Committee remains supportive of this program and its activities it noted to the Department that it has been a standing request for it to bring a detailed progress report for each program which is the subject of a new grant award. The Committee would like the opportunity to conduct some detailed oversight regarding the program in question while conducting its evaluation on the current grant award. The Committee also stated that it intended to do further oversight during the next Congress session as a part of its over all review for the FY16 budget for the National Department of Health and Social Affairs.

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. 19-05, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon  
Bonsiano F. Nethon, chairman

Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, 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