

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-23

RE: C.R. NO. 19-40/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$382,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

JULY 16, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was  
referred C.R. No. 19-40 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$382,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, TO FUND THE  
FSM FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, 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.

The resolution would approve a grant to fund the access to  
contraceptives for women, and the program to improve the  
overall health status of women of childbearing age.

Your Committee held a hearing July 13, 2015. In attendance  
was the Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and  
Social Affairs and his staff, and a representative from the  
Department of Justice.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-23

RE: C.R. NO. 19-40/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$382,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

JULY 16, 2015

The Acting Secretary stated that this grant would assist all the four State Departments of Health to ensure assess to contraceptives for all women of childbearing age in the Nation. This is a long-standing program and has proved very successful. The goal here is not to limit the size of families in the FSM, but to ensure that the mothers and babies are healthy. It is much healthier for women to have at least two years between births in order to recuperate and care for the older child. This program is one of the Nation's success stories as there has been a reduction in infant mortality and improved mother/baby overall health.

In discussing the budget for this coming year your Committee was again disappointed when it learned that the grant award was reduced from \$382,000 to \$325,000 as \$57,000 went unspent last year. Several of the grant awards under review this session have had this same problem and your Committee believes this highlights an overall weakness in management and control by the Department. Again, the Committee calls on the Department to work on correcting this problem immediately.

The budget for this grant award is attached to the report. Your Committee notes that a substantial percentage of this grant is proposed for personnel, and is concerned that with the decrease in grant funding for this year either significant activities will be impacted or the ability to pay the employees who are funded under this grant or both. It is very unfortunate that many of the Department's grants have been impacted in this manner.

Your Committee agrees that continued funding for this program is very important. Therefore, your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and purposes of C.R. No. 19-40, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-23

RE: C.R. NO. 19-40/H&SA

SUBJECT: APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$382,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

JULY 16, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

Paliknoa K. Welly, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

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

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