

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-198

RE: C.R. NO. 19-322/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,306,000.

JANUARY 27, 2017

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Sixth Regular Session, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was referred C.R. No. 19-322, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,306,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,306,000 TO ASSIST AND FUND THE FSM STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS PROJECT, FOR THE BUDGETED PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 2017, INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee held a hearing on January 25, 2017 the witnesses present included: the Department of Health and Social Affairs, including the Secretary and key staff,

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Office of the President, Department of Finance and Administration, and the Department of Justice. Your Committee is pleased and honored to note that key members of the administration and the directors for the State Departments of Health were also present at our hearing.

The program funded by this grant is well known to the Committee. This program provides targeted activities and services for our Nation's youth between the ages 12 to 20. This program is active in all the four States and the primary goal is to reduce the amount of underage drinking in our Nation. Each of the States provides its own plan for activities and finalization of these plans are a collaborative effort between the States and National government.

Your Committee held in-depth discussions regarding the very high percentage of the total grant award resting at the national level. The Department of Health and Social Affairs stated that while funding for personnel and supplies has been passed down to the States a significant portion of the funding resting at the National level is for use for a mandatory evaluation specialist and that individual's travel budget through all the four States. The Department stated that while it has been trying to keep only 10-15% of the grant award at the National government level sometimes the grant guidelines mandate certain activities or consulting positions that are administrative in nature to work with the National Department of Health and Social Affairs.

As several of the Directors and staff from the State Departments of Health were available at the hearing those individuals commented on the programs funded by this grant. The consensus of these witnesses' was that much more funding is needed for treatment at the grassroots or state level. Several further commented that more funding was

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needed at the State level and less should be allocated to the National government level for administration.

Your Committee has attached the basic budget and history of the program activities for this funding cycle with this report. The Committee has requested the list of activities and budgets for each of the four States when they are finalized for this year.

Again, your Committee notes and takes under advisement the comments made by the National Department of Health and Social Affairs and the four State Departments of Health regarding the challenges they face in timing of Congress approval of grants, as well as, the timing of processing on the Executive side. It is unfortunate that there have been delays in the approval of resolutions for grant funding that have resulted in decline in program efficiency and delays in payment of salaries. The Committee is prioritizing the bills pending that would amend this process, and will work with the relevant committees on this matter.

Your Committee would like to offer the following amendment as follows:

1. Page 1, title, delete "SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2016" and insert "SIXTH REGULAR SESSION, 2017", in lieu thereof.
2. Page 1, line 14, delete "Seventh Special Session, 2016" and insert "Sixth Regular Session, 2017", in lieu thereof.

It is therefore, for the reasons set forth above, your Committee on Health and Social Affairs supports the grant activities proposed to be funded, it is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 19-322, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-322, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

Florencio S. Harper, member

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

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

/s/ Alik L. Alik  
Alik L. Alik, member