

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-29

RE: C.R. NO. 20-33/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING GRANT A FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$337,000.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was
referred C.R. No. 20-33, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT
ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$337,000 FROM THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE, TO SUPPORT AND 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 the resolution are expressed in
its title.

Your Committee held a hearing on September 25, 2017, the
witnesses present included, the Department of Health and
Social Affairs, including the Secretary and key staff, and
representatives the Department of Justice. Your Committee
was also fortunate to have the Directors of the State
Hospitals at this hearing, with the exception that Yap
State was unable to attend. Your Committee values the

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input of the state leadership as they administer the programs.

The proposed grant award will support our Nation's family planning divisions in all the four states. There is also funding under this grant that will be used by the states to fund activities at the State COM-FSM campuses. This grant is well known to the Committee, and your Committee appreciates the information regarding this program that it received in August 2017. The Family Planning Program funded by this grant is very important for our Nation, and the health and well being of women of childbearing age. It is noted by your Committee that according to information provided by the Department of Health and Social Affairs that approximately all women of child bearing age report that they use some type of family planning. The proposed grant will provide birth control, and this is itemized in the attached budget as "Other" for \$183,000.

The Committee did question why the budgets for the four states were not in proportion to their populations. The Department responded that the state's developed their own budget and priority activities.

Your Committee also inquired as to the declining population in the FSM, did the Department believe that the family planning program have anything to do with that. The Department responded that the current generation of young women are having four children, as compared to the previous generation where women were having eight children. It is difficult to tell exactly the effect of family planning on the population of the Nation as many of our citizens are leaving for the U.S., however, it is probably safe to say that access to birth control is playing a part in the decline. Given that women appear to be having four children, on average, there is no problem with a serious population decline in the foreseeable future.

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Your Committee is strongly supportive of the Department of Health and Social Affairs' efforts to provide family planning services for our Nation, and 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.20-33, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, 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

/s/ Derensio S. Konman
Derensio S. Konman, member