

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-30

RE: C.R. NO. 20-43/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING GRANT A FROM THE UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$284,160.

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. 20-43, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$284,160 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICE, CENTERS FOR DISEARSE CONTROL AND
PREVENTION, TO FUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA COMPREHENSIVE CANCER
CONTROL (CCC) PLAN TO REDUCE CANCER BURDEN IN THE FSM
FOR THE BUDGET PERIOD FROM JUNE 30, 2017, TO JUNE 29,
2018, 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

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representatives the Department of Justice. Your Committee was also fortunate to have the Directors of the State Hospitals of Pohnpei and Kosrae, at this hearing. Your Committee values the input of the state leadership as they administer the programs.

The program that this proposed grant supports is well known to the Committee, and it believes that the work done in this area is important due to the large number of our citizens that continue to suffer from cancer. It is therefore, very concerned to hear from the Department of Health and Social Affairs that for the coming grant year the proposed funding has been cut by over half. The Department has advised the Committee that this is through no fault of the program or its administrators, but the decrease in funding was an administrative decision on the U.S. side.

When the Committee inquired as to how the decrease in funding would affect the program the Department was very forthright and stated that less service would be offered in the coming years. Going forward the program will have to chose one or two project items to emphasize per year. While it hopes that funding will be restored in the future it must prioritize for this next year. The Department also stated that it did retain all of the employees in the program as they are important for implementation and it would be more challenging to recruit skilled people later if the funding was restored.

As to the activities and performance of this program the Department stated that oral, or mouth, cancer was on the rise due to increasing use of tobacco with betel nut. The Committee was advised that multi-year statistics regarding the number of our citizens suffering from various types of cancers has been collected. The Committee requested that this survey be provided, as well as, the most recent program report.

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A budget summary for all the four states is attached with this report. As indicated in the report no full time positions are funded at the state level under this grant. All healthcare professionals at the state level are under contract, and many of these are on a part-time basis only.

Your Committee is supportive of the Department of Health and Social Affairs' efforts to provide cancer control and prevention 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.20-43, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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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