STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-58

RE: C.R. NO. 20-81/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) IN THE AMOUNT OF
$145,193.

MAY 16, 2018

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina
Speaker, Twentieth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fourth Regular Session, 2018

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs, to which was
referred C.R. No. 20-81, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) IN THE
AMOUNT OF $145,193, TO FUND AND SUPPORT THE GLOBAL
FUND PROJECT FOR TB/HIV IN THE FSM, 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 May 14, 2018, the
witnesses present included: the Department of Health and
Social Affairs, including the Secretary and her key staff,
representatives the Department of Justice and the
Department of Finance and Administration, as well as, the
Office of the President.

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The Committee is very familiar with the work by the
Department of Health and Social Affairs in the areas of TB
and HIV prevention, however, the grant before it is for
different activities and from a new outside funder. The
Department advised the Committee that most of the work done
by the main U.S. federally funded grant in this area deals
with prevention. What is proposed in this grant is that
funding from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
coordinate with the existing grant to provide additional
support for personnel, contractual services, medication,
screening and testing. All areas that need more dedicated
funding.

The Department continued stating that they would like to do
more outreach in higher risk parts of our communities.
This funding will also enable more coordination and data
collection activities. The Department stated that this
would provide diagnostic equipment that could be on site in
every state. This will be much more effective and cost
efficient. Tests that previously had to be sent outside
the Nation can be done in country faster and at a
substantial cost savings.

The Committee inquired as to whether the number of cases of
these diseases were decreasing. The Department stated that
multi-drug resistant TB is declining. This is due to
screening, better monitoring of treatment and education.
Other diseases are showing an increase, but the Department
believes that this is because more work is being done to
screen and identify those with the disease. It is believed
that these numbers will show a decline after the majority
of our citizens have access to screening and education.

The detailed budget for this grant is attached for the
review of the members. The Department stated that the
travel budget will be used only for travel within the

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Nation, and most of it will be healthcare professionals
coming in for training.

Your Committee is strongly supportive of the Department of
Health and Social Affairs' efforts to provide additional
funding for services to our citizens, including screening
and medicines, 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, and is
in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No.20-81 and
recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ferny S. Perman	/s/ Alik L. Alik
Ferny S. Perman, chairman	Alik L. Alik, vice chairman
/s/ Tiwiter Aritos	/s/ Florencio S. Harper
Tiwiter Aritos, member	Florencio S. Harper, member
/s/ David W. Panuelo	/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
David W. Panuelo, member	Joseph J. Urusemal, member
/s/ Derensio S. Konman	
Derensio S. Konman, member	