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