STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-93

RE: C.R. NO. 20-133/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) IN THE AMOUNT OF

\$290,386.

SPTEMBER 27, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was referred C.R. No. 20-133, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$290,386, TO FUND AND SUPPORT THE GLOBAL FUND PROJECT FOR HIV/TB 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 September 25, 2018, the witnesses present included: the Department of Health and Social Affairs, including the Acting Secretary and key staff, representatives from the Office of the President, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the Department of Justice.

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The program funded by this grant is well known to the Committee. This program provides targeted prevention programs in all the four states for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STDs and TB. The Committee values the Department's efforts to battle contagious disease, and understands that we face continuing challenges in this area, particular with the rise of drug resistant disease.

Your Committee held in-depth discussions regarding this program, the current funding will be used only for HIV/TB screening. Over 7,000 individuals are tested annually for HIV, and much higher for TB. The high rates of screening for TB include children who are screened prior to attending school. The rates for TB continue to decline in the FSM. Multi-drug resistant TB is still found in the FSM, but public health has taken steps in each instance to treat these cases. There is also education and monitoring done for TB patients to finish their medication so has to reduce the likelihood of drug resistance.

Your Committee appreciates the program summary and detailed budget, which are attached for the information of members.

Your Committee is strongly supportive of the Department of Health and Social Affairs' efforts to combat communicable disease, 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.20-133, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

| /s/ Ferny S. Perman | |
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| Ferny S. Perman, chairman | Alik L. Alik, vice chairman |
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| /s/ Tiwiter Aritos | /s/ Florencio S. Harper |

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal

Florencio S. Harper, member

Joseph J. Urusemal, member

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

Tiwiter Aritos, member

David W. Panuelo, member