

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-91

RE: C.R. NO. 20-130/H&SA

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$147,000, TO  
FUND THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM.

SEPTEMBER 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. 20-130, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$164,968 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION, TO FUND THE FSM MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH  
PROGRAM 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 his key  
staff, a representative from the Office of the President,  
and representatives from the Department of Justice, and the  
Department of Finance and Administration.

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This proposed grant will fund a long standing program with the Department of Health and Social Affairs. The Maternal and Child Health Program is very successful and has provided funding for healthcare employees at the state level, as well as, medicine and equipment. The funding also provides for funding for specialists to visit our Nation to treat our children with significant medical needs.

The current proposed grant is one quarter of the annual funding. Another quarter of funding for this program was also reviewed by the Committee (C.R. No. 20-129). The total yearly budget for the program is attached to the Standing Committee Report for C.R. No. 20-129 for reference of the members. Your Committee notes that the funding level and the activities for the program remain the substantially the same as in years past.

During the hearing your Committee did hear testimony from the witnesses that more support is needed for infants and mothers just after birth. There have been instances where screening and care have not been provided due to the mother and baby leaving the hospital immediately after birth. This early leaving impacts the ability of healthcare professionals to identify disability and disease immediately after birth, and ultimately also has an impact on infant and mother mortality.

In light of the above comments, your Committee is strongly supportive of the Department of Health and Social Affairs' efforts to provide additional funding for maternal and children's medical needs, 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.20-130, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

Alik L. Alik, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper  
Florencio S. Harper, member

David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

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