



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Votes to Support US Senate Bill 788 "Equality Act"

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Sept. 5, 2019 – The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council voted Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019 to support the United States Senate Bill 788 the "Equality Act."

SB 788 will expand and clarify the protections and remedies against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding and jury systems.

The legislation, which was sponsored by Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, passed with a vote of 16 in favor and 0 opposed.

The approved legislation states: "The Navajo Nation through the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, finds US Senate Bill 788 aligns with the Navajo Nation's compassion and respect for LGBTQ people, and finds it is in the Navajo Nation's best interest to support US Senate Bill 788 as a step in allowing LGBTQ communities, including our Two-Spirit LGBTQ communities, the freedom from discrimination, protection from injurious practices, and the full pursuit of happiness as citizens."

The legislation to support SB 788 was previously approved by both the Law and Order Committee and the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

The Navajo Nation Code states that the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has the power to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government.

The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, the President of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Nation Washington Office are authorized to advocate on behalf of the Navajo Nation to support SB 788.

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