



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council passes resolution supporting the proposed New Mexico Indian Education Trust Fund and calling for equity in the makeup of the funding task force



PHOTO: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty said that the Navajo Nation needs to ensure equity for Navajo students and that the current language in HB 134 does not provide it.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Wednesday during a special session, the 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the New Mexico State Legislature to amend House Bill 134, which proposes to create an Indian Education Trust Fund and to establish a task force to develop a distribution formula for the fund. The bill is being considered in the current state legislative session.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, who chairs the New Mexico delegates caucus, introduced Legislation No. 0028-24 to establish the Navajo Nation's support for the creation of the Indian Education Trust Fund to help fulfill the state's obligations to Navajo students, in accordance with a 2018 New Mexico court ruling that found that the state was not fulfilling its education obligations to Navajo students.

The resolution also establishes the Navajo Nation's opposition to the current language contained in HB 134, to establish the task force. The current language does not equitably represent the number of Navajo students in New Mexico's educational systems.

Currently, the Department of Diné Education estimates that the total number of Navajo

students in New Mexico is far greater than all other tribes within the state combined.

“We need equity for our Navajo students and the current language in HB 134 does not provide that. We are open to working with the sponsor of the bill to amend the bill. We also look to our Diné state leaders to advocate for our students as the state legislative session continues,” said Delegate Crotty.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley, in collaboration with the New Mexico delegates, recently provided testimony before the New Mexico House Education Committee outlining the concerns and calling for fair representation on the proposed task force.

As the governing body of the Navajo Nation, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0028-24 by a vote of 20-0.

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