



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Legislation urges Congress to exempt tribes from the impacts of potential Medicaid cuts**



**Speaker Curley said the Naabik'iyáti' Committee will introduce legislation to protect tribes from Medicaid cuts.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Speaker Crystalyne Curley will soon introduce legislation urging Congress to uphold the federal government's trust and treaty obligations by exempting and protecting tribes from proposed Medicaid cuts and requirements that threaten access to life saving health care for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.

Congressional members and staff requested a resolution outlining the Navajo Nation's official position as Congress debates a reconciliation bill, referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which may include reductions to Medicaid funding.

"Navajo people, and tribes across the country, already face some of the most severe health inequities. Cutting Medicaid funding would be devastating for many families, elders, and disabled," said Speaker Curley.

She added that passing a resolution through the Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee will help the Navajo Nation to advocate with a clear and united voice.

Speaker Curley stated, "We have to work diligently with congressional members and the Trump Administration to make it clear that a drastic reduction in Medicaid funding will undermine the federal government's treaty obligations to the Navajo people and place the health and well-being of tribal members across the country at risk."

Speaker Curley also cautioned Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren regarding his public comments issued on Wednesday, which praised and thanked President Donald Trump for his recent statements over Medicaid. National media outlets reported that President Trump used explicit language to urge House members not to mess with Medicaid.

“As leaders of the Navajo Nation, we have to think critically about statements that are made by federal leaders. If President Trump is expressing his overall support for Medicaid then I believe the Navajo Nation should support that position, but if President Trump’s statement is intended to urge the House to hurry and pass the reconciliation bill that includes cuts to Medicaid then we should be very concerned and voice our opposition,” said Speaker Curley.

President Nygren’s statement supporting President Trump’s comments were published on his social media platform and included a reference to President Trump’s explicit language. The social media post was later revised to remove the reference to the explicit language.

“We carry the sacred responsibility of our words. As Diné, we are taught that our speech holds power—shaped by intention, guided by respect, and rooted in the teachings of our elders. Our language must reflect the dignity of our people. Public references to explicit words, especially from the President of the Navajo Nation, undermine the values that we are sworn to uphold. Several of my Council colleagues have expressed disappointment with President Nygren’s reference to explicit language in a public post, language that contradicts the reverence with which we are taught to speak,” said Speaker Curley.

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