



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council advances emergency legislation opposing U.S. Department of Education closure and calls for formal tribal consultation to be held on the Navajo Nation



The 25th Navajo Nation Council advanced emergency Legislation 0027-26 opposing Executive Order 14242 regarding the closure of the U.S. Department of Education.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council advanced emergency legislation to oppose United States Executive Order 14242 and the proposed closure of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), while formally requesting government-to-government tribal consultation between the Navajo Nation and the U.S. ED.

Legislation No. 0027-26, sponsored by Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez and co-sponsored by Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, reaffirms the Navajo Nation's inherent sovereign right to meaningful consultation regarding federal actions that directly affect Navajo students, schools, and education programs across the Nation.

The legislation reminds the U.S. ED of the critical federal programs and grants that directly serve Navajo students or for which they are eligible, including Title VI Indian Education, Impact Aid, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, civil rights protections, and higher education support. Any effort to gradually close or dismantle the agency without formal tribal consultation risks disrupting essential services and undermines established trust and treaty responsibilities.

"This legislation is about protecting our students and asserting our sovereignty to federal agencies," said Delegate Dr. Nez. "These federal decisions are not simply about reducing complexity or duplication; they should focus on the immediate impacts to our students, who will be directly affected if departments such as the Department of Labor or the Department of the Interior are unaware or uneducated about the mechanisms that bring resources to all types of students. Consultation is not optional; it is a responsibility grounded in our treaties and the government-to-government relationship."

Council Delegate Crotty underscored the urgency of the legislation, noting that Navajo students attend public schools and institutions across multiple states and depend on stable federal education infrastructure.

"Navajo students and families should not be collateral damage of federal policy shifts. This action clearly states that any changes to federal education programs must involve tribes from the beginning, with transparency and respect for our political status as a sovereign nation," said Delegate Crotty.

The resolution further calls on the U.S. Department of Education to engage in formal, meaningful tribal consultation regarding both short- and long-term plans tied to Executive Order 14242, including the proposed interagency agreements and the potential transfer of education functions to states. Council delegates emphasized that such changes, if implemented without consultation, could jeopardize funding streams and educational protections serving thousands of Navajo students nationwide.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0027-26 with a vote of 18 in favor and zero opposed. The Navajo Nation Council serves as final authority for the legislation.

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