



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 28, 2025**

### **The 25th Navajo Nation Council approves legislation to strengthen Emergency Medical Services**



**Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez sponsor of Legislation 0250-24, the Navajo Department of Emergency Medical Service's schedule of fees.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The 25th Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation 0250-24, the Navajo Department of Emergency Medical Service's (EMS) schedule of fees, ensuring that the EMS program is equipped to provide critical life-saving care and maintain a sustainable system for emergency medical responses.

"Our goal is to protect and improve the health and safety of our communities," said Dr. Andy Nez, sponsor of the legislation. "This action ensures that our EMS program has the resources it needs to deliver high-quality emergency medical services to every corner of the Navajo Nation. The revenue generated from this fee schedule will directly support critical services and ensure the long-term viability of this program."

The approved schedule introduces a structure for EMS to collect fees for emergency response and medical transportation services from third-party payers such as Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and other entities. The revenue will strengthen the program's budget, enabling EMS to sustain its 24/7 operations, upgrade equipment, and expand training programs for medical staff. Additionally, the schedule outlines rates for non-emergency transport, advanced life support, specialty care, and training services, ensuring transparency and efficiency in revenue generation.

The legislation directly benefits Navajo Nation residents by enhancing the quality and availability of emergency care. By approving this schedule, the Navajo Nation ensures that its EMS program remains a reliable and strong resource for our people.

The fee schedule supports the Navajo Nation's efforts to achieve financial sustainability for essential services. Funds collected will be allocated to an enterprise fund exclusively for EMS operations, preventing

reliance on the Navajo Nation General Fund. This system ensures accountability and compliance with federal contracts under Public Law 93-638 and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley of the 25th Navajo Nation Council commended the unanimous vote, calling it a testament to the Council's commitment to the well-being of the Navajo people. "This legislation addresses a critical need for sustainable funding in our emergency medical services. It empowers our EMS program to continue providing life-saving services across the Nation."

The legislation was approved following a thorough review process involving the Law and Order Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee. It now serves as a model for strengthening public health infrastructure while ensuring financial accountability.

Legislation 0250-24 was approved with a vote of 16 in favor and none opposed. Once certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have up to ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

###