



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Naabik'iyáti' Committee endorses federal priorities for incoming administration and 119th U.S. Congress



Legislation 0271-24 was sponsored by Speaker Crystalayne Curley and co-sponsored by Delegates Andy Nez and Lester C. Yazzie

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee unanimously approved a resolution identifying the federal priorities of the Navajo Nation for the incoming Trump administration and the 119th U.S. Congress.

Legislation 0271-24, sponsored by Speaker Crystalayne Curley and co-sponsored by Delegates Andy Nez and Lester C. Yazzie, outlines critical issues the Nation will advocate for at the federal level, including strengthened tribal sovereignty, improved healthcare, increased infrastructure funding, and expanded educational resources.

"Our Nation's inherent sovereignty and self-governance remain at the core of our advocacy efforts," said Speaker Curley. "By approving this legislation, we support the Navajo Nation's vested interest in securing the resources and policies necessary for our communities to thrive."

The resolution passed with strong support during the Naabik'iyáti' Committee meeting on Jan. 9, 2025, receiving 15 votes in favor and zero opposed. The approval underscores the Council's unified commitment to ensuring that federal policies reflect the needs of the Navajo people and strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the Navajo Nation and the United States.

The resolution sets forth key priorities in areas critical to the well-being and future of the Navajo Nation, including public safety, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. The legislation calls for direct engagement with federal agencies to address these priorities through regular consultations and partnerships.

Among the top priorities is increased mandatory funding for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Justice Services to enhance law enforcement services, improve detention facilities, and expand victim services across Navajo lands.

Engaging with federal officials from day one is crucial for advancing the needs of the Nation. Proactive steps must be taken to advocate for policies that promote self-reliance and prosperity for the people.

The priorities advocate for greater financial support for Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) grant schools, including additional resources for transportation, academic programs, and expanded opportunities for students, with the goal of improving educational outcomes for Navajo students while increasing tribal control over school operations.

Healthcare remains a top concern for the Navajo Nation. The 25th Navajo Nation is pushing for advanced appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) to ensure consistent and reliable healthcare funding. Additionally, the resolution seeks federal support to address pressing issues such as the opioid crisis, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment in Navajo communities.

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee passed a resolution urging the removal of regulatory barriers and increased federal investment to improve essential infrastructure on tribal lands. The resolution highlights the need for streamlined processes to expedite projects such as roads, water systems, and public safety facilities, ensuring faster delivery of critical services and improving quality of life across Navajo Nation.

Additionally, the priorities call for protecting federal program funding, including from initiatives like the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), which have significantly benefited tribal communities. The resolution advocates for greater Navajo representation in federal agencies, emphasizing the appointment of Navajo leaders to key roles, such as within the Indian Health Service, to ensure policymaking addresses the Nation's unique needs.

The proactive approach to federal advocacy reflects the Navajo Nation Council's commitment to securing resources that will benefit Navajo communities for generations to come. By engaging with federal officials before the presidential inauguration on January 20, 2025, the Nation aims to ensure that Navajo interests are prioritized from the outset of the new administration.

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The priorities outlined in Legislation 0271-24 serve as a comprehensive guide for the Nation's advocacy efforts, ensuring that the voices of the Navajo people are heard and respected at the highest levels of government. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has final authority for this legislation.

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