



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Naabik'iyáti' Committee votes in support of Colorado Indian Child Welfare Act



The 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee passed resolution in support of Colorado House Bill 25-1204 reinforcing best practices in child welfare.

Window Rock, Ariz. – On Thursday, March 13, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee has passed a resolution in support of Colorado House Bill 25-1204, also known as the Colorado Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The bill aligns Colorado's child welfare laws with federal ICWA regulations to ensure the protection of Native children, uphold tribal sovereignty, and reinforce the cultural and familial integrity of Indigenous communities.

"The Navajo Nation has long understood that our children are the foundation of our future," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. "It is crucial that we take every step to ensure our children stay connected to their families, culture, and tribal identity. Supporting Colorado's efforts to strengthen ICWA regulations is essential to safeguarding our sovereignty and promoting the well-being of Native youth."

House Bill 25-1204 seeks to address the historical and ongoing challenges Native families face due to the disproportionate removal of Indigenous children from their homes. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), enacted by Congress in 1978, was created to combat the systemic separation of Native children from their families, a practice that has significantly impacted tribal communities. CO ICWA builds on this foundation, providing further safeguards at the state level to ensure compliance with federal protections.

In 2023, Colorado passed SB 23-211, which incorporated federal ICWA provisions into state law. House Bill 25-1204 builds on these efforts by further ensuring compliance with federal mandates, closing legal loopholes, and reinforcing best practices in child welfare. The Navajo Nation collaborated with the Colorado working group to review and discuss the bill, emphasizing the importance of preserving familial and cultural ties when making placement decisions for Navajo children.

The legislation sponsored by the Speaker Curley affirms the Navajo Nation's full support for House Bill 25-1204 and urges Colorado legislators to pass the measure during the 2025 General Assembly session. Additionally, the resolution authorizes Navajo Nation leadership to advocate for the bill's passage, reinforcing the Nation's commitment to protecting its children and families.

"The passage of CO ICWA is a vital measure to uphold tribal sovereignty and safeguard the rights of Navajo children," Speaker Curley added. "We call on Colorado lawmakers to stand with us in ensuring that our children are cared for in environments that reflect their cultural values and heritage."

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