



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 5, 2014

## President Shelly vetoes Legislation No. CN-55-14, approves two other bills



President Shelly vetoed a request for \$1.3 million from the UUFB for the Office of the Speaker to fund eyeglasses and burial assistance. He approved the name change for Navajo Mountain Chapter and the purchase of more than 67 acres of land in the Farmington area. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—On Dec. 5, President Ben Shelly exercised his line item veto authority for Legislation No. CN-55-14, which requested \$1 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for the Office of the Speaker to provide eyeglasses within in the five agencies of the Navajo Nation and \$300,000 in supplemental funding to provide burial assistance.

“Providing eyeglasses for the youth and elders is of great importance, but the appropriate and capable agency to ensure proper distribution is the Navajo Division of Social Services, not the Office of the Speaker,” President Shelly said.

His reasons for vetoing the \$300,000 supplemental funding request from the UUFB to fund burial assistance costs by the speaker’s office was the same.

“Providing burial assistance to our low-income Navajo families is appropriate and of great importance,” President Shelly said. “However, the appropriate and capable agency to ensure proper distribution is the Navajo Division of Social Services, not the Office of the Speaker.”

He said the Office of the President and Vice President would consider funding a similar supplemental legislation that would direct funds to the Division of Social Services.

Currently, the division has offices located in all five agencies and already has programs in place for burial assistance and eyeglasses for low-income families.

President Shelly approved Legislation No. CN-57-14. The bill requested \$980,000 for the purchase of 67.39 acres of land located in Farmington, N.M. from Rolling Mesa LLC.

The purchase is in accordance with the Navajo Nation Land Acquisition Policy and has been in progress since Jan. 13, 2014, when the owner accepted the purchase price of \$980,000. The land is located at the southwest junction of Highway 371 and N376 in Farmington.

The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Upper Fruitland Chapter and the Navajo Division of Economic

**“The appropriate and capable agency to ensure proper distribution is the Navajo Division of Social Services.”**

Development will utilize the land for commercial development.

President Shelly also approved Legislation No. CN-62-14. The bill requested a name change for Navajo Mountain Chapter to Naa’tsis’áán Chapter.

Navajo Mountain Chapter approved the name change request on Aug. 24, 2014 through Chapter Resolution No. NM008/323-14. The new name will be incorporated into all appropriate sections of the Navajo Nation Code and shall be recorded and reflected in all records maintained by the Navajo Nation.

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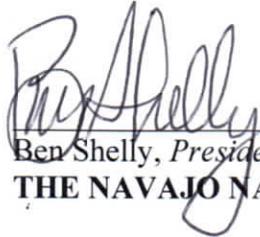




MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Speaker Pro Tem  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM:

  
Ben Shelly, *President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: December 5, 2014

SUBJECT: **LINE-ITEM VETO OF LEGISLATION NO. CN-55-14: RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER, BUSINESS UNIT NEW, TO FUND EYEGLASSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ELDERLY PERSONS WITHIN THE FIVE AGENCIES AND \$300,000 FOR BURIAL ASSISTANCE**

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005(C)(10), the above titled Legislation CN-55-14 is being submitted to the Navajo Nation Council, through the Office of the Speaker, within the ten (10) days requirement.

The Navajo Nation President has line-item veto authority for budget items within the annual Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget or Supplemental Appropriations, which are not subject to override by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(17).

**I hereby exercise my line-item veto authority by vetoing supplemental funding from the unreserved, undesignated fund balance in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Office of the Speaker, business unit new, of CN-55-14.** Providing eyeglasses for the young and elders is of great importance, but the appropriate and capable agency to ensure proper distribution is the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, not the Office of the Speaker.

**I hereby exercise my line-item veto authority by vetoing supplemental funding from the unreserved, undesignated fund balance in the amount of \$300,000 for the Office of the Speaker, for burial assistance of CN-55-14.** Providing burial assistance to our low-income Navajo families is appropriate and of great importance. However, the appropriate and capable agency to ensure proper distribution is the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services, not the Office of the Speaker.

The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services has and continues to be the most appropriate agency to ensure eyeglasses are supplied to children and elders and burial assistance to families in need. Unlike the Office of the Speaker, the Division of Social Services has a presence within the five Navajo Nation agencies. Additionally, the Division of Social Services has protocols in place that will ensure that those in need can obtain assistance without the worry that issues, similar to those that occurred regarding discretionary funding use.

The Office of the President would consider funding a similar supplemental legislation that will direct the funds to the Division of Social Service.

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

22nd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2014

## AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES; BUDGET AND FINANCE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI', AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF ~~\$1,000,000~~ FOR THE NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER, BUSINESS UNIT NEW, TO FUND EYEGLASSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ELDERLY PERSONS WITHIN THE FIVE AGENCIES OF THE NAVAJO NATION AND ~~\$300,000~~ FOR BURIAL ASSISTANCE

BE IT ENACTED:

## SECTION 1. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation has an unmet need for eyeglasses for young people, Headstart to 12 grade, and elderly persons, 55 years and older.
- B. Due to the epidemic of financial hardships for Navajo families, they are unable to purchase eyewear for young family members and elderly persons which then hinders their education, livelihood and stability.
- C. Other medical benefit program that cover eyewear, such as New Mexico Medicaid and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), include restrictions, limitations and eligibility requirements that affect Navajo individuals in receiving proper eye care and eyewear.
- D. The Plan of Action for eyewear service will include distribution of services to each Navajo Agency to serve an estimated 9,000 young persons and an estimated 9,000 elderly people with frames and single vision or bifocal lenses.
- E. Eligibility for services will be based on need as determined by low income eligibility standards for welfare benefit services and application for services will be administered by each Navajo Agency.
- F. The Supplemental Funding will be deposited with the Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker; the Program Budget Summary is attached as Exhibit "A."

G. The Navajo Nation hereby finds it is in the best interest of the Navajo People to approve this supplemental funding request.

**SECTION 2. APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER, BUSINESS UNIT NEW**

A. The Navajo Nation, having received certification by the Office of the Controller that as of July 14, 2014 the balance in the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance is \$9,593,752, attached as Exhibit "B."

B. ~~This supplemental appropriation of \$1,000,000 shall be to the office of the Speaker, Business Unit #New and \$300,000 for burial assistance.~~ ~~And from that amount of funds that exceeds the minimum fund balance of the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance as determined by the Office of the Controller, pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 820(L).~~

C. ~~The Navajo Nation hereby approves supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker, business unit #New, to fund eyeglasses for young people and elderly person within the five Agencies of the Navajo Nation, and \$300,000 for burial assistance.~~ ~~And for the Office of the Speaker to develop policies and procedures for the application process for distribution of the funds.~~

D. The supplemental funding request will follow the Navajo Nation Procurement Policies requirements.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 8 in favor and 4 opposed, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.

LoRenzo Bates, Pro Tem Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Honorable George Apachito  
Second: Honorable Edmund Yazzie

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014.

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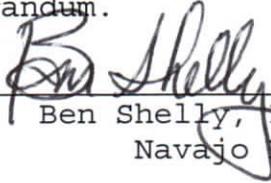
Ben Shelly, President  
Navajo Nation

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (11), this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

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Ben Shelly, President  
Navajo Nation

3. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10) and 2 N.N.C. §164 (A) (17), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of DEC 05 2014, 2014. The justification of my line-item veto is set forth by memorandum.



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Ben Shelly, President  
Navajo Nation