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## NAVAJO NATION SUPPORTS ARIZONA SCR 1028



Vice President Jonathan Nez provides testimony in support of Senate Committee Resolution 1028 at the Arizona Senate Committee of Commerce and Public Safety.

PHOENIX – Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez provided testimony in support of Senate Committee Resolution 1028 at the Arizona State Legislature. This resolution recognizes the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) and the Navajo Nation.

Vice President Nez said, "We appreciate your consideration and approval to advance this nation-to-nation partnership to the next level. We are pursuing similar partnerships in the states of New Mexico and Utah."

The MOU between the ADVS and the Navajo Nation was signed on June 24, 2016, to ensure the needs of Navajo veterans are met. The Begaye-Nez administration is committed to serving the Navajo veterans. Native veterans have served more than every minority group in the nation.

"This the first time that a tribe has certified their own tribal members through the state to serve their veterans. The Hopi Tribe is interested in this model and they are seeking to replicating this model for their own

veterans," said Vice President Nez.

The proposed legislation is a commitment to provide services, ensuring the cooperation of the ADVS and the Navajo Nation for the benefit of the veterans of the Navajo Nation.

Vice President Nez provided a testimony alongside Col. Wanda Wright, director of ADVS. The resolution passed the committee with a vote of 8 for and none opposed. This resolution will be heard next at the rules committee from there it will go to the senate floor for a vote.

"For the first time tribal veteran service officers were certified by the state to help our veterans. This is significant. We appreciate the support for this legislation," said Vice President Nez.

The next step for the legislation is the senate floor for a final vote. The Office of the President and Vice President extends appreciation to Sen. JAMESCITA PESHLOKAI for introducing and sponsoring this bill on behalf of Navajo veterans.

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