23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

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Council commends approval of $4.2 million for the construction of the new Chinle Nursing Home facility

PHOTO: (left to right) Council Delegates Davis Filfred, Leonard H. Pete, Benjamin L. Bennett, and Lee Jack, Sr. at the construction site of the new Chinle Nursing Home facility in Chinle, Ariz. on Feb. 28, 2018.

WINDOW ROCK – Members of the Navajo Nation Council commend the approval of Navajo Nation Council resolution CF-15-18, which was approved by the Council on Feb. 16 and signed by President Russell Begaye on March 11, to provide $4.2 million in supplemental funding from the

Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to assist with the construction of the Chinle Nursing Home facility.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) introduced the bill to provide a new nursing home to help Navajo elders, particularly those who do not want to reside in nursing homes off the Navajo Nation.

"The Nation is very fortunate to have a nursing home facility because Navajo elders do not have to travel and stay at off-reservation nursing homes to receive services. Chinle is a great central location for elders and they feel more comfortable being near home and their families," stated Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle), who represents the Chinle community.

The new Chinle Nursing Home facility is currently being constructed east of the Chinle Comprehensive Care Center. Chinle Nursing Home, a non-profit corporation under the state of Arizona and the Navajo Nation, provides adult care services for Navajo elders and disabled adults.

The new $25 million nursing facility will meet the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Service's regulatory requirements and include 80 nursing beds, a recreational area, fully equipped bathrooms, courtyard, visitation rooms, and administrative offices.

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee chair Council Delegate Hale commended his colleagues for supporting and Navajo elders.

"Many of our Navajo elders stay in nursing homes in the border towns of the Nation. Our elders need to stay near home and feel the comfort of their families and natural environment," said Delegate Hale.

Chinle Nursing Home administrator Wayne Claw continued to express his appreciation to the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for supporting the initiative that will also support economic development for the central region of the Nation.

The construction of the new Chinle Nursing Home facility is scheduled to be completed in December 2018.

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