



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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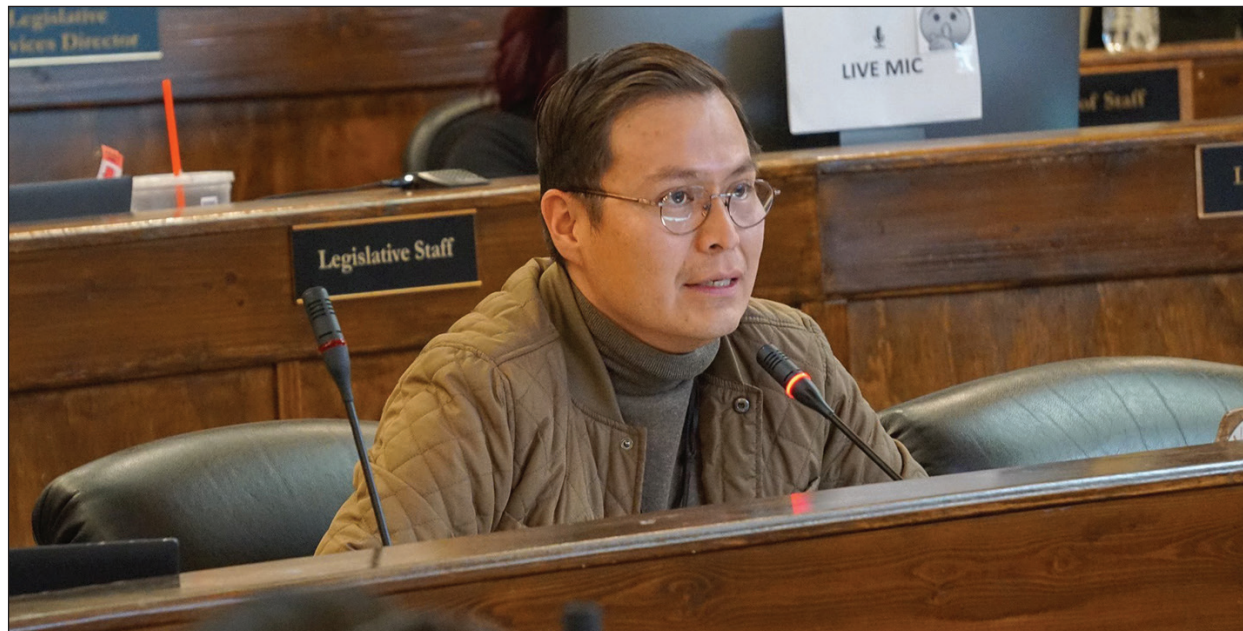
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**June 27, 2025**

### **Naabik'iyáti' Committee reasserts self-governance authority in response to "Dear Tribal Leader" Letter, approves \$300,000 for Navajo Nation scholarships**



**Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez sponsored Legislation 0153-25 calling for direct consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Indian Education.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Thursday, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee acted to defend the Nation's sovereign authority over education by approving a resolution calling for formal, direct consultation from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The action responds to the DOI's April 14, 2025, "Dear Tribal Leader" letter and asserts the Navajo Nation's inherent right to self-governance and treaty-based consultation.

Legislation No. 0153-25, sponsored by Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, reaffirms the political classification of the Navajo Nation and its citizens, challenges any federal attempt to bypass the Nation in educational decision-making, and calls for direct government-to-government engagement regarding tribally controlled and BIE-funded schools on Diné Bikéyah.

"The U.S. must meet its existing obligations, which should not unilaterally restructure 'Indian' education systems without tribal consultation," said Dr. Nez. "There are legal and moral foundations outlined in treaties, case law, and decades of federal Indian policy."

Due to concerns with recent federal actions, HEHSC sent a formal position letter to the DOI, BIA, and BIE, outlining the Nation's stance and calling for a direct consultation process before July 7, 2025, that encompasses all consultations required by law.

Delegate Cheryl Yazzie successfully motioned for a directive requiring HEHSC, in coordination with the Department of Diné Education and the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc., to report back to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee within 30 days of any tribal consultation or engagement with the U.S. DOI, BIA, or BIE regarding Executive Order 14210 or any related restructuring initiative.

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez reiterated that "self-governance is not negotiable. The federal government must engage with the Navajo Nation as a government, not as a stakeholder. Anything less is a violation of our treaties."

This move sets a solid foundation to protect and preserve education. According to Dr. Nez, the Nation must continue to defend its political status as a sovereign government with legal standing.

The legislation passed with a vote of 14 in favor, none opposed with the Naabik'íyáti' Committee holding final authority.

During the same meeting, Legislation No. 0135-25, also sponsored by Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, approved donations totaling \$300,000 to be accepted into the Navajo Nation scholarship coffers. The legislation was approved with a vote of 14 in favor and one opposed with the Naabik'íyáti' Committee holding final authority.

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