

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. **0046-21**

DATE: March 12, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESCINDING NABIAU-35-20, ENTITLED, "*AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RECOMMENDING THAT ALL SCHOOLS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, SERVING THE NAVAJO NATION, INCLUDING THOSE OPERATED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND UTAH, AND ALL SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, TO DELAY PLANS AND DECISIONS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR*"

PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION: This resolution, if approved, will rescind NABIAU-35-20, a resolution which recommended that *all schools, public and private, serving the Navajo Nation, including those operated by the State of New Mexico Public Education Department, the states of Arizona and Utah, and all schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, to delay plans and decisions to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year.* The proposed resolution introduced will rescind this previous action of the Navajo Nation.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 15 Business Days
Website Posting Time/Date: 03-17-21 5:08 PM
Posting End Date: 03-22-2021
Eligible for Action: 03-23-2021

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0046-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESCINDING NABIAU-35-20, ENTITLED, "AN
ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RECOMMENDING THAT ALL SCHOOLS, PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE, SERVING THE NAVAJO NATION, INCLUDING THOSE OPERATED
BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE STATES
OF ARIZONA AND UTAH, AND ALL SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE BUREAU OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, TO DELAY PLANS
AND DECISIONS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR"

WHEREAS:

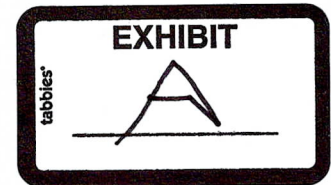
- A. The Health Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has oversight over the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (C) (1).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. It has the authority to "review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental relationships between the Navajo Nation and such departments." 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(7).

1 C. On August 13, 2020, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee passed resolution NABIAU-35-20,
2 entitled "*An Action Relating To Health, Education And Human Services And*
3 *Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Recommending That All Schools, Public And Private,*
4 *Serving The Navajo Nation, Including Those Operated By The State Of New Mexico*
5 *Public Education Department, The States Of Arizona And Utah, And All Schools*
6 *Operated By The Bureau Of Indian Affairs And The Bureau Of Indian Education, To*
7 *Delay Plans And Decisions To Reopen Schools For The 2020-2021 School Year.*"
8 NABIAU-35-20 attached as Exhibit A.

9
10 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

11 The Navajo Nation hereby rescinds NABIAU-35-20.
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020



AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RECOMMENDING THAT ALL SCHOOLS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, SERVING THE NAVAJO NATION, INCLUDING THOSE OPERATED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND UTAH, AND ALL SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, TO DELAY PLANS AND DECISIONS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS:

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. It has the authority to review and recommend resolutions regarding certain matters, including health, education and social services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012); see also CO-45-12.
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. It has the authority to "review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental relationships between the Navajo Nation and such departments." 2 N.N.C. §701(A)(7).
- C. The Navajo Nation has children attending public schools in the state of New Mexico, including schools in McKinley and San Juan Counties.
- D. Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, through executive order, closed New Mexico public schools for the period March 16, 2020 - April 3, 2020. See, newmexico.gov. On March 27, 2020, with 136 confirmed cases for COVID-19 in the state, the March/April school closure was extended for the remaining school year. Gov. Lujan Grisham stated, "We're working very hard to contain the virus, and we have to continue to take aggressive steps to mitigate spread

and protect New Mexicans of every age all across the state. It is more important than ever that we make sure all New Mexicans are heeding the imperative to stay home." She also stated, "Keeping schools closed is one of the most important tools we have to support the social distancing that can help us reduce and mitigate the spread of the virus." See, *newmexico.gov*. (March 27, 2020). Schools were directed to develop "continuous learning plans." *Id.*

- E. The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) manages elementary and secondary schools and dormitories located on Indian reservations, including the Navajo Nation. Within the Navajo Nation, there are Navajo Nation controlled schools, and schools operated under contracts or grants with the BIE. The BIE also provides funds for residential programs.
- F. Arizona public schools are scheduled to reopen August 17, 2020. New Mexico public schools are scheduled to reopen August 3, 2020. Bureau-operated schools are scheduled to reopen September 16, 2020.
- G. On June 20, 2020, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), through its written *Reentry Guidance*, announced plans to reopen schools (K-12) beginning in August for school year 2020-2021. See, *newmexico.gov* and **Exhibit A** (an excerpt from June 20, 2020 NM PED *Reentry Guidance*)
- H. COVID-19 cases continue to increase across the country at an alarming rate. For New Mexico, as of July 1, 2020, over 12,000 cases of Coronavirus were reported. Nearly 500 deaths were reported as well. See, *cv.nmhealth.org* (NM Department of Health). And within the Navajo Nation, health officials have reported the highest per capita rate of infection for COVID-19 in the United States.
- I. There are a number of comments from the general public, including teachers and students, against reopening of schools. These comments are attached as **Exhibit B**.
- J. Statistics also provide that New Mexico "ranks second among states in percent of positive cases that are under 20 years of age. In New Mexico, 12% of positive cases have been children

and adolescents; the national average is 3%." See, cv.nmhealth.org (FAQ).

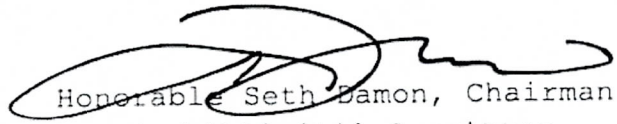
- K. Navajo children must be protected. In midst of the continuous rising cases of COVID-19 throughout the country, it is too early to reopen schools in the manner proposed by the New Mexico Public Education Department.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Navajo Nation strongly recommends that all schools, public and private, serving the Navajo Nation, including those operated by the State of New Mexico Public Education Department, The States of Arizona and Utah, schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, delay plans and decisions to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24th 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 20 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 13th day of August 2020.


Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

August 19, 2020

Date

Motion: Honorable Mark A. Freeland
Second: Honorable Pernell Halona

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

Exhibit A

Requirements for Reentry

NMPED's Reentry Guidance provides considerations, recommendations, and best practices to encourage a safe and successful school year. The following are important minimum requirements for all reentry.

The eight minimum requirements for reentry are:

- 1 To begin, all districts and schools across the state will be able to operate strictly according to hybrid guidelines. The Department of Health and Medical Advisory Team will regularly assess rates of the spread of COVID-19. Districts and schools will then follow the appropriate guidelines based on the designated safe reentry category.
- 2 Schools must participate in a surveillance and rapid response testing program for all staff.
- 3 Schools must adhere to the social distancing requirements of their designated category.
- 4 Schools should avoid large group gatherings.
- 5 Face coverings are required for all students and staff except while eating, drinking and exercising, with limited exceptions for students or staff who have medical reasons for not being able to wear a mask or face shield.
- 6 All staff must be screened on a daily basis, including a temperature check and review of potential symptoms. All sites must work with state and local health officials to have a plan for contact tracing. While not required, this is also recommended for students.
- 7 For transportation, all staff and students must wear face shields or masks. In addition:
 - a. A maximum of two students may sit together on a bus seat.
 - b. Schools in the yellow category should take all reasonable steps to limit bus seats to one student to the best of their ability.
- 8 Meals must be provided to students during in-person instruction and remote learning.

0159-20



Laberta Jean Largo <labertalargo13@gmail.com>

Fri 7/17/2020 10:38 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

It's is not safe to go back to school

So please Navajo nation Council please be in Favor of not letting students go back to school

Sent from my iPhone

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

School year 20-21 reopening

Shileen Livingston <shhenderson@yahoo.com>

Fri 7/17/2020 10:39 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good morning,

As a parent I am very concerned and afraid for my children to return to in school sessions. Our family has personally been affected by Covid -19 and have lost 3 loved ones. I did my part in keeping my children home while in quarantine. I am concerned because I do not know if other parents are doing the same with their children or if they are taking them around to these known "hotspots." I would prefer to have them do completely online classes until it is completely safe to return. If they continue to see spikes and still decide to reopen schools, I will be applying for homeschooling. Thank you for listening and taking into consideration the concerns of parents throughout the Navajo Nation.

Sent from my iPhone

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

School delay due to Covid-19

Jamie Russette <jamierussette@yahoo.com>

Fri 7/17/2020 10:39 AM

to comments <comments@navajo-hsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern;

I would like to voice my opinion and stance on the proposed school openings in August 2020. At this time the cases of COVID on the reservation and throughout our nation are at the highest levels they have been.

I don't see my children going back to school until there is a vaccine discovered, how could the State of New Mexico even consider putting out children's lives in danger! The governor of New Mexico Michelle Lujan Grisham will not even allow a movie theater to open because of the dangers, how could she think putting a classroom of twenty or more students together for eight hours a day safe!!

Children, because of their lack of understanding know the dangers of our situation. Do you really think they will be able to stand wearing a mask for more than eight hours a day! Do you really think they will keep their hands to themselves and not be able to touch their faces or other students?! Children are more prone to viruses and illnesses because of all the surfaces they touch, we cannot hope to put these vulnerable innocent lives in danger like this! My children have not been out in public since this started, the few time I have had to take them out while keeping a mask on them was challenging and I have four young children. Do you think one teacher with twenty students will be able to keep an eye on their masks or keep the twenty of them from touching surfaces or each other?! When one child gets sick in my home we all get sick! Just think if one child becomes exposed at home and unknowingly goes to school, how many more children will that child infect?! When those children in turn go home to their families they risk infecting everyone at home siblings, parents, vulnerable grandparents.

The state of New Mexico needs to stop and think about this! There are many alternatives available to keep students from going back to a classroom put them into place! Keep the interests of our children at heart first before you make these decisions!

I am very upset and it makes me sick to think of the Governor trying to push school among our already stressed parents and communities.

Keep our children safe New Mexico!

Jamie Russette
PO Box
Thoreau NM 87323
505

Sent from my iPhone

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Legislation 0159-20

Ryedale Edward Largo <rglapache03@gmail.com>

Fri 7/17/2020 10:39 AM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I go to Miyamura high in Gallup it's part of the gmcs and this is my opinion
I my self as a student do agree it is not safe to go back to school I have delt with this virus and I know how it feels I lost so
many people of my family to this virus and I don't wanna give it to my family again if I catch it at school
So please please Council think about us children on the Navajo Nation ❤️❤️
Sent from my iPhone
WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Untitled

Desiree Livingston <dlivingston560@gmail.com>

Fri 7/17/2020 10:39 AM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

It is not safe to go back to school during the covid-19 pandemic

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

considering covid for reopening school

Shasha Han <shan@navajotech.edu>

Fri 7/17/2020 10:39 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,

My name is Shasha Han, I work at Navajo Technical University located in Crownpoint reservation. We have a big number of cases here which we don't even get informed where exactly those patients went. I am concerned about my 5 year old daughter going to school. I wish they would provide fully virtual classes otherwise I will not send my daughter to school. I would rather let her do homeschool. But my university informed us to go back to school, no one would watch her. For little children they are not able to wear a mask for a long time, they will touch things too. I notice many organizations here try to hide the information about people who get covid, that makes it even worse. No one is monitoring quarantined ones, they still go out and contact people after testing positive. Please consider doing virtual next semester or even the whole year. At this point, the most important thing is to stay alive.

Thanks

Shasha Han

Assistant math professor

Navajo Technical University

Lower Point rd hwy 371, crownpoint, NM 87313

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

July 18, 2020

Lorinda Henio, Parent
P.O. Box
Church Rock, NM 87311
heniol@yahoo.com

This letter is in regards to the NM state school start up plan the governor has imposed.

As a parent, I have three children enrolled with the Gallup McKinley County School District. Majority of the students enrolled are Native American that are bused in from different parts of the reservation surrounding Gallup. I am very concerned about my children's health and safety to return back to a school classroom. As a parent I advocate on behalf of my children and have personally been involved by visiting 3 different schools periodically

during a school year. My children attend elementary, middle school and high school. My complaint to the school district has always been overcrowded classrooms/schools prior to this pandemic. Their response has always been teacher shortage.

So my top concern is how our children are able to practice social distancing in an over crowded school? Wearing a mask 8+ hours a day. Cleaning and sanitizing after each student seems impossible. The school buses have been overcrowded and two to a seat as proposed by GMCS does not met social distancing guidelines. There are just too many risk for our students to go back into a classroom setting.

My request is to delay school start until the numbers come down significantly. We can not risk our children's lives. The

health and safety of our children should
be upmost priority.

Keep youth and elders safe. It's too soon to open school!

laMsCruz Cruz <lamsacruz@yahoo.com>

Sat 7/18/2020 1:51 PM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

As a teacher with McKinley County public Schools , I love and respect the vibrant Dine and other native communities I've served teaching in Gallup. Every student who comes through our classroom door has an extended family. We have to consider the grandparents and relatives of our students. We have to protect the leaders, teachers, and healers of the future. Youth are precious and can not be replaced. Grandparents and elderly are precious and can not be replaced. Covid 19 is still killing .We do not know the long term disabilities this virus may cause. We must work to have safe schooling. We must teach without harming children and elders. We must extend remote learning and educational equality. It is not safe to have in person school yet. Thank you for your attention to this matter, Mary Luz Cruz

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Reopening School for SY 2020/2021

Charlotte Ashley <ladymole2006@yahoo.com>

Sat 7/18/2020 1:51 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am a grandmother to 3 young children. One in 1st, 5th and 8th at Thoreau Elementary and Middle Schools. I strongly disagree with school's reopening where students will be physically in schools. There is no vaccine available for COVID-19 and the numbers are still too high in McKinley county.

No one was prepared for all the problems this virus presented and no one has the answers except to wear a mask, social distancing and sanitize and disinfect. We are asking for a disaster putting children back in school exposing them to the high possibility of catching the virus and bringing it home.

I would strongly suggest online learning until January or February when there is a vaccine available and the positive case numbers are significantly low. I love my grandchildren and want them, as well as myself and my loved ones, to be around after this all blows over. We are dealing with a worldwide epidemic right now and we do not need to play with our children's lives by throwing them or ourselves into the hot fire.

Charlotte Livingston-Ashley
Thoreau, New Mexico

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Untitled

Tiania Sandoval <143tianiasandoval@gmail.com>

Sun 7/19/2020 9:36 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

No, it's not safe to go back to school

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Regarding school opening

Pamela Whitman <pamelawhitman727@yahoo.com>

Sun 7/19/2020 9:36 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I Pamela Whitman am a grandian of my grandson who attends JFK school...I feel it is still not safe for him to go back...due to this virse...online would be more appropriate for them...like it says this virse does not discriminate...I caught it back in April...n I am still getting well from it... I've loss love one due to this virse. Your un standing us appreciate it. Any questions I can be reached by my email r phone 505

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Opening schools

Catherine Begay <begaycatherine@yahoo.com>

Sun 7/19/2020 9:36 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am a Navajo language teacher. I teach at Navajo Pine High School on the Navajo reservation. I totally disagree that Gallup McKinley county school is opening school in August. I am afraid for the students and myself. Our Navajo children are precious as well as the teachers. The Covid-19 numbers are still raising and we need your help. We need a voice. A voice telling them the school's are opening too soon and it will be dangerous. The school district does not ask teachers what or how they feel about opening the schools. Just maybe Gallup McKinley county school will listen and take in to consideration if our leaders take action. Thank you.

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Re: parents comments

Dreday <andreatom45@yahoo.com>

Sun 7/19/2020 9:36 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom this may concern: I Andrea Yazzie would recommend online courses for my children, they attend Jefferson Elementary, Gallup Central High School and Miyamura high school. Thank you for your time and understanding if you have any questions please feel free to call or email at 928. andreatom45@yahoo.com.

Andrea Yazzie

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Legislation 0159-20 School Delays

Monica Yazzie <monicayazzie@yahoo.com>

Mon 7/20/2020 9:10 PM

to comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern,

As a parent, our voices are never heard from School Districts. I will not let my child go to school during this pandemic, seeing all the hotspots and extreme high cases of COVID and the aftermath of the virus of what it will do to the body, I will not take that chance to send my child to school even for a day. Please keep in mind, this virus puts mild to permanent damage to our health. The children who are dying, children who are carriers, children who suffer in health, as leaders re-entry needs promising guidelines. I saw the GMCS sports waiver form, you let your child participate, and if your child gets the COVID or if your child dies, you will not hold the school, the past, former or future board of directors responsible for this, how sad. This is not acceptable.

Monica

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Schools opening

limitedarcher <limitedarcher@yahoo.com>

Mon 7/20/2020 9:10 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello. I am a parent of two children whom attend Gallup McKinley County Schools in Tohatchi NM.

I am not ok with the schools opening up anytime soon. There is no containment and no vaccine for the Covid 19. I have relatives whom have passed because of this virus; whom also did their best to wear masks, hand washing and staying home.

I am against the opening of in person school sessions and from home is best right now.

Why? Are there zoom meetings, teleconferences but our children to be put at risk in person and also the potential exposure for the children, staff and us adults at home and the rest of our family.

Thank you,
Roxanne Thompson
P.O. box
Gamerco NM 87317

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Untitled

Georgianna Desiderio <teddybearmat1105@gmail.com>

Mon 7/20/2020 9:10 PM

Re: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Navajo Nation Counsel Members,

I strongly advise you all to vote in favor, No. to our Dine children going back to school.

First, our Nation was hit hard by the coronavirus (Covid-19). Many people mock this virus as we went into the unknown, now we understand this virus is not a respecter of, gender, race, wealth, age.

Second, GMCS claims to have a strong plan! The CDC guidelines that McKinley county schools may have in place, is not good enough to ensure the safety of our children! Our children deserve a chance at a future!

The CDC of the United States of America guidelines fail! America has over 1 million deaths and is still accelerating at an alarming rate. The same guidelines Gallup McKinley County School state they are to follow??

Lastly, I urge you all to vote no!

Every single politician that is voted in their positions always claim

1. Our children, safety, future, education?

I ask you all these questions,

In the middle of this pandemic, How are you going to ensure our Dine/
(children of ages, color, backgrounds)

Safety?

Future?

Education?

I am a parent, I do not wish any person feel the loss of any child. Our children are our future! Protect our children

Thank you.

Georgianna

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

GLENADINE NAKATI
P.O. Box
CROWNPOINT, NM 87313

July 21, 2020

Dear Honorable Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham,

This letter is in support of Navajo Nation Legislation 0159-20. I support the Navajo Nation's request to delay the starting of the school year 2020/2021. As of current information the community of Crownpoint has 734 cases of COVID-19. The number of positive cases has been increasing on average of 8-10 cases a day. We are seeing a decline in positive cases due to the Navajo Nation's strict Shelter In Place orders and 57 hour Lock downs.

As an educator I am concerned for my safety, the safety of my colleagues, and most importantly the safety of our students. I feel that the COVID pandemic will continue to decrease with time. My colleagues and I are requesting that you, as the Governor of New Mexico, delay the start of the next school year. We feel that the extra time will allow for decline in the number of positive cases.

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas and for working to keep New Mexicans safe.

Sincerely,

Ms. Glenadine Nakati
Kindergarten Teacher
Crownpoint Elementary School
Crownpoint, NM 87313
gnakati@gmcs.org

In person school

mthompson.2016@yahoo.com

Wed 7/22/2020 12:54 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am a guardian of my niece and nephew whom attend Tohatchi elementary school. I am not ok with my kids going in person right now to attend school. There is no containment or vaccine for the Covid-19. It is unsafe for kids right now and for the teachers and family the kids come home too. Please keep our children safe for now. Would you as leaders send your child, grandchildren to a school building right now during the pandemic? Not me.

Melvin Thompson

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Legislation No._0159-20_

Candace Begay <cfbegay@gmail.com>

Wed 7/22/2020 12:54 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon,

I am in full support of this legislation to DELAY the opening of Gallup McKinley County Schools. I have three children, one at Thoreau Elementary School, two at Thoreau Middle School.

I am entrusted with their health as their parent, and I have been successful this far. We have been abiding by the instructions handed down from our Navajo Nation President Johnathan Nez. My family has stayed home since March 2020, thus we have NOT contracted Covid19.

The protective measures that I take - by teleworking from home, social distancing when getting essentials, staying home and enforcing my household to stay home during curfew hours have kept us safe thus far. How can I entrust someone else to take these protective measures for me? At the school level? I want my children safe. One of which has asthma.

If the school district wants to re-open schools, there should be an action plan for immune-compromised students/households. I have the means for my children to distance learn. I would like the Gallup McKinley County School district to take that into consideration. I understand the amount of kids we have in this school district is substantial. However, please and I beg of you - come up with some plans for online learning. This will allow more parent involvement in learning, which I fully support. It is up to us as parents to help educators at this time. Delay the reopening!!!!

Sincerely,

Candace Faith Begay

Phone: 505

Email: cfbegay@gmail.com

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Schools reopening

Carol Heredia <cheredia_28@yahoo.com>

Wed 7/22/2020 12:54 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I have (2) high school aged children that will be attending school in Gallup with pre-existing medical conditions that require 504 health plans to ensure they have accommodations in place while attending school. With the current pandemic ongoing and the uncertainty of how long this virus will continue to linger, I have deep reservations about sending my kids to school. They both share the same sentiments about school. I do not want to risk my children's health and expose them to staff or their peers that could be asymptomatic and present with the COVID-19 virus. I have been following the news and some of the weak arguments in my opinion are that we need to send kids to school because they may be starving, be abused, or need human interaction. If these were severe problems, wouldn't they be a dire need to address these issues during the past months we've been social distancing? The Navajo people have been drastically affected by this vicious virus. Why do we want to put our kids at risk when there is not sound treatments or let alone hospital accommodations to treat a possible spike in patients being admitted? As a parent, I am asking the Navajo Nation elected officials to strongly consider what is best for our young people and ensure that our children are safe.

Thank you,
Carol Heredia

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DIANNA MAESTAS, President
TAYLOR PINTO, Vice-President
VIVIAN KEETSO, Secretary
ELIZABETH MARTIN, Member
JAMES D. CASASUS, Member



ADMINISTRATION
DR. KAREN SANCHEZ-GRIEGO Ed.D, Superintendent
DR. MATT WILLIAMS Ph.D, Asst. Superintendent
RHIANNON CHAVEZ, Finance Director
DR. PEDRO VALLEJO Ed.D, High School Principal
ARSENIO JACQUEZ, Middle School Principal
AMY ROMERO, Elementary School Principal

July 22, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Cuba Independent School District (CISD) is a public school in the state of New Mexico, under the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). Under the *Reentry Guidelines* of the NMPED, CISD is among other schools in New Mexico to reopen schools in August 2020. CISD learned about the resolution carried forth by Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie of the Navajo Nation Council, recommending that the NMPED delay their plans and decisions to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

Cuba Independent School District is located in Cuba, NM, in Sandoval County, on the edge of the Easternmost portion of the Navajo Nation. A majority of our students (70%) are Navajo and live on the Navajo reservation. The communities that CISD serves face the same issues that our relatives all across the Navajo Nation face, which are further exacerbated by the pandemic. As we all know, our Navajo people were hit harder by COVID-19 as compared to other communities and as cases of the virus continue to rise, our communities have shown apprehension about sending their children back to school.

Cuba Independent School District supports the resolution brought forth by Mr Yazzie to recommend that the NMPED delay their plans and decisions to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Given the statistics provided in the resolution and the danger and fears surrounding the pandemic, it would be comforting for our students, parents, and communities to know that the safety of our students are at the forefront of our planning during this time. We ask that NMPED consider the hardships that our Navajo communities face when making the decision about requiring students to return back to school this year. We feel it would be safest for our students to continue in remote learning at this time. We support Mr. Yazzie and the resolution set forth here, as a decision in this matter will affect our school, our children, and our community.

Ahe'hee,

Raphaelita Phillips
CISD Native American Student Support Program Director/ Indian Education Director
rphillips@cuba.k12.nm.us

Legislation 0159-20

Rose Nofchissey <rose.nofchissey@gmail.com>

Thu 7/23/2020 9:53 AM

To comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Ya'at'eeh, shinaat'aanii,

I'm a grandmother with grandkids in Arizona and New Mexico Navajo Nation. What I'm worried about is how the closing/reopening of schools severely impacts families, especially single parents. I'm relieved that President Nez extended the closure of tribal offices because many of our tribal employees are in the situation of not knowing how to get care for their children at home once they are ordered to go back to work. So please consider the various situations of the safety of our children and grandchildren.

Thank you.

Rose Nofchissey, Grandmother & Retired Teacher

Shiprock Chapter

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

NAVAJO NATION

615

Navajo Nation Naabikiyati Regular Meeting

8/13/2020

11:23:33 AM

Amd# to Amd# Legis.No. 0159-20 (as amended)
MOT Freeland, M Recommending that the State
SEC Halona, P of New Mexico Public Education
Department to Delay Plans...

PASSED

Yeas : 20

Nays : 0

Excused : 2

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 20

Begay, E	Daniels	Nez, R	Tso, D
Begay, P	Freeland, M	Slater, C	Tso, O
Brown	Halona, P	Smith	Walker, T
Charles-Newton	Henio, J	Stewart, W	Wauneka, E
Crotty	James, V	Tso, C	Yazzie

Nay : 0

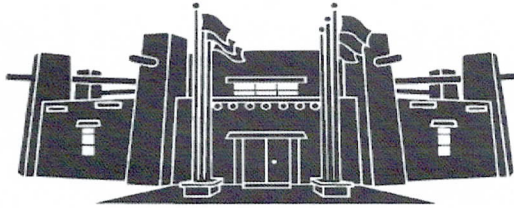
Excused : 2

Begay, K Tso, E

Not Voting : 1


Yellowhair

Presiding Speaker: Damon



MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Carl Slater, Delegate
Navajo Nation Council

From : 
Ron Haven, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : March 12, 2021

Re : AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESCINDING NABIAU-35-20, ENTITLED, "AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RECOMMENDING THAT ALL SCHOOLS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, SERVING THE NAVAJO NATION, INCLUDING THOSE OPERATED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND UTAH, AND ALL SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, TO DELAY PLANS AND DECISIONS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR"

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. As to format, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. Regarding substance, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want.

If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0046-21_

SPONSOR: Carl Slater

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education, and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Rescinding NABIAU-35-20, Entitled, "An Action Relating to Health, Education, and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Recommending that All Schools, Public and Private, Serving the Navajo Nation, Including those Operated by the State of New Mexico Public Education Department, the States of Arizona and Utah, and All Schools Operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, to Delay Plans and Decisions to Reopen Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year"

Date posted: March 17, 2021 at 5:08PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*