

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23RD Navajo Nation Council---Second Year, 2016

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
NAABIK'IYATI'; SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND FIRST
THINGS FIRST

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHS) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHS to review and recommend resolutions regarding education. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A) (9), 400 (A), 401 (B) (6) (a) (2012); *see also* CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyati' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyati' Committee "[t]o coordinate all...state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most effective delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A) and 701(A) (4) (2012) *see also* CJA-03-13.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of Arizona.
- D. First Things First was established in 2006 by Arizona voters who approved Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative and the Arizona voters have twice affirmed their desire to dedicate funds specifically for early childhood education and health programs for children prior to kindergarten entry.
- E. First Things First is one of the critical partners in creating a sustainable, comprehensive, collaborative, family-centered and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education in all Arizona's children birth through five years old, so they are ready to succeed in school and in life.
- F. The Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative also empowers federally recognized Tribes to

decide how they want to participate in the regional structure of First Things First to provide programs and services to young children and families on reservations.

- G. The Navajo Nation 2010 Census reported a total population of 10,894 children five years and younger in the Navajo Nation with the Navajo Nation receiving \$3,797,324 in Fiscal Year 2015 allocation of First Year First funds for the following priorities: Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings, Support and Services for Families, Access to Quality Health Care and Services, Professional Development System and Public Awareness and Support.
- H. First Things First funds represent the only state monies dedicated exclusively to school readiness for Arizona's children and First Things First has acted responsibly in managing voter-approved resources to ensure long-term sustainability of the State's early childhood education and health system.
- I. First Things First investments in programs that keep kids safe and learning, like early literacy and language programs, services for children with special needs, quality early learning program for low-income children, preventive children's health services, education for families, including teen parents and grandparents raising grandchildren, are currently fulfilling the voters' commitment to positively impact children and families and communities across Arizona.
- J. First Things First support has allowed crucial early intervention and child abuse prevention programs, like childcare for foster children, developmental screenings to detect health and learning issues, and home visitation programs to help struggling families, to continue despite drastic cuts in state funding to Arizona's safety net.
- K. In the past several years there have been a number of proposals to raid First Things First funding and to change the mission of the organization, taking focus away from early childhood; taking funds away from one part of the education system and diverting it to another part of the education system ultimately does not represent an increased investment in education.

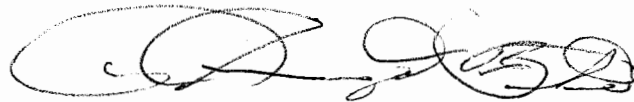
- L. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of Navajo children to support First Things First and the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative as intended.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation supports First Things First and the Arizona's Early Childhood Development and Health Initiative as intended.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, and their designees, to urge Arizona policymakers to keep current funds in Arizona's early childhood and health system by not diverting funding or altering the mission of First Things First.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Navajo Nation Council Chambers, Window Rock (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of in 16 favor and 0 oppose, this 14^h Day of January, 2016.



Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Chairperson
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motion: Davis Filfred
Second: Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 228

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

1/14/2016
02:56:18 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation No. 0411-15

PASSED

MOT Filfred
SEC Slim

Supportin for Early Childhood
Development and First Things
First

Yea : 16

Nay : 0

Not Voting : 8

Yea : 16

Begay, M
Begay, NM
BeGaye, N
Bennett

Chee
Daniels
Filfred
Hale

Perry
Phelps
Slim
Smith

Tso
Tsosie
Witherspoon
Yazzie

Nay : 0

Not Voting : 8

Bates
Begay, K

Brown
Crotty

Damon
Jack

Pete
Shepherd