

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2022

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; ESTABLISHING "THE NAVAJO NATION FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH" AS A RECURRING EVENT IN MAY TO BRING AWARENESS TO NAVAJO FOSTER CHILDREN AND INCREASE THE NEED FOR MORE NAVAJO FOSTER PARENTS

WHEREAS

- A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to establish Navajo Nation policy, promulgate rules and regulations governing health, social services, education, human services and general government services of the Navajo Nation and its tribal organizations, entities, and enterprises. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(B)(1).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council, and it shall use Nitsáhákees, Nahat'á, Iiná, and Siihasin in exercising oversight authority (including the authority to promulgate rules and regulations: . . . 2 N.N.C. § 700(A).
- C. The purpose of this legislation is to establish the "Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month" in May as a recurring annual event.
- D. Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléí is a declaration of the foundation of Diné Law. 1 N.N.C. § 201. Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléí provides guidance that Diné life way is who we are as Diné and despite the changes in society we remain Diné forever.
- E. Diyin Bits'áádée' Beehaz'áanii (Diné Traditional Law) teaches that our elders and our medicine people, the teachers of the traditional laws, values and principles must always be respected and honored if the people and the government are to persevere and thrive; the teachings of the elders and medicine people, their participation in the government and their contributions of the traditional values and principles of the Diné life way will ensure the growth of the Navajo Nation; and from time to time, the elders and medicine people must be requested to provide the cleansing, protection prayers, and blessing ceremonies necessary for securing healthy leadership

and the operation of the government in harmony with traditional law; and the various spiritual healings through worship, song and prayer (Nahaghá) must be preserved, taught, maintained and performed in their original forms. . . 1 N.N.C. § 203(F) (G).

- F. Furthermore, Diyin Dine'é Bitṣááḍḍéé Beehaz'áanii (Diné Customary Law) provides that it is the right and freedom of the people that the sacred Diné language (nihiinéí') be taught and preserved; and it is the right and freedom of the people that every child and every elder be respected, honored and protected with a healthy physical and mental environment, free from all abuse; and it is the right and freedom of the people that our children are provided with education to absorb wisdom, self-knowledge, and knowledge to empower them to make a living and participate in the growth of the Navajo Nation. 1 N.N.C. § 204(C) (E) (F).
- G. It is imperative to bring awareness to the public regarding our Navajo Children being placed in foster care across tribal communities and the United States because our Navajo Children have unique needs such as continuing and maintaining the Diné language, knowledge of cultural oral stories, and understanding the clan system.
- H. The Navajo Nation understands that family circumstances do change, and Navajo children end up being placed in foster care in state and tribal foster care systems.
- I. The Navajo Nation also provides awareness through this legislation that there is a need to increase Navajo foster parents to take in Navajo children who are placed in foster care.
- J. The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services—Department of Family Services is an entity of the Navajo Nation and should provide further guidance and information for foster care children, adoption, and Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act. Please visit their website at <https://www.nndss.navajo-nsn.gov/> for further information.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

The Navajo Nation hereby establishes the "Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month" in May as a recurring annual event to bring awareness to Navajo children being placed in foster care across tribal communities and the United States, and to increase Navajo foster parents to take in Navajo children who placed in foster care.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 23 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

May 18, 2022  
Date

Motion: Honorable Mark A. Freeland

Second: Honorable Paul Begay, Jr.

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

# NAVAJO NATION

1255

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

5/12/2022

05:59:31 PM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business - Consent Agenda;

PASSED

MOT Freeland, M

-Legislation 0077-22 & 0093-22

SEC Begay, P

Yeas : 23

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

Yea : 23

Begay, E

Daniels

Slater, C

Tso, O

Begay, K

Freeland, M

Smith

Walker, T

Begay, P

Halona, P

Stewart, W

Wauneka, E

Brown

Henio, J

Tso, C

Yazzie

Charles-Newton

James, V

Tso, D

Yellowhair

Crotty

Nez, R

Tso, E

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

Presiding Speaker: Damon