

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE

23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; REQUESTING THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE OCCURRENCE OF DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOR INCLUDING VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE OF NAVAJO AND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEMS ON THE NAVAJO NATION AND THE SURROUNDING CONTIGUOUS STATES

WHEREAS:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has legislative authority and oversight over all matters related to education on the Navajo Nation and of its children. 2 N.N.C. § 401 (C)
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has the legislative authority to continually monitor programs and activities of federal and state departments that serve the Navajo People. 2 N.N.C. § 701(A) (7)

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The 20th Navajo Nation Council created the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (Commission) in 2006.
- B. The Commission was established to collect information regarding discriminatory acts against citizens of the Navajo Nation by individuals, businesses, organizations and foreign governments as they occur within, and outside, the Navajo Nation.
- C. The Commission is charged with protecting and promoting the human rights of the Navajo People by advocating human equality at the local, state, national and international levels based on the Diné principles of Sa'a Naaghai Bik'e Hozhoo, Hashkéejí, Hózhóójí and Ké: resilient, content, disciplined and maintaining peaceful relationships with all creation.

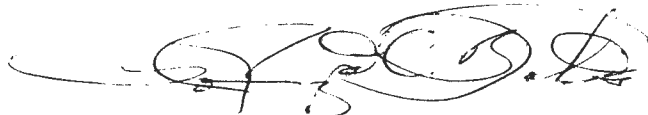
- D. The Commission is to serve as a forum to provide all information and education, with the intention of empowering the Navajo Nation citizens on their human rights.
- E. The Commission is empowered to conduct public hearings in and near border towns to assess the state-of-affairs between Navajos and non-Navajos.
- F. Over time there have been a number of incidents involving the mistreatment of Navajo and Native American children by representatives of school systems in and around the Navajo Nation:
 - 1. August 2014 in Texas, a Navajo kindergarten student was sent home with the order to have his hair cut.
 - 2. February 2, 2016 Flagstaff - a referee barred Navajo girls basketball players from wearing hair in traditional buns.
 - 3. October 31, 2018 a New Mexico Cibola High School teacher cut off a Navajo student's braid and called another a "bloody Indian..."
- G. It is not uncommon for reported events of abuse to be only a surface view of a widespread and deep set problem.
- H. In order for the Navajo Nation Council to be best able to develop an effective legislative response and the Navajo Nation Executive Branch an effective legal and administrative response, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission should conduct public hearings on this matter such action being in the best interest of the Navajo People.
- I. Navajo Nation Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee find it to be in the best interest of the Navajo People and their children for the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to undertake hearings for the purposes of gathering all relevant information regarding the discriminatory actions including the verbal and physical abuse of Navajo and other Native American children by representatives of the respective school systems on and around the Navajo Nation, and to report such findings in the form of a report to be given to the Navajo Nation Council as soon as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation hereby directs the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to undertake hearings for the purposes of gathering all relevant information regarding the discriminatory actions, including the verbal and physical abuse of Navajo and other Native American children, by representatives of the respective school systems on and around the Navajo Nation, and to report such findings in the form of a report to be given to the Navajo Nation Council as soon as they are able.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23rd 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 16 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 27th day of December 2018.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Nathaniel Brown
Second : Honorable Davis Filfred

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 1168

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

12/27/2018

03:09:00 PM

Amd# to Amd#

PASSED

MOT Brown

Legislation 0390-18 Requesting

SEC Filfred

the NN Human Rights Commission

Undertake an Investgation....

Yea : 16

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 8

Yea : 16

Begay, K

Damon

Jack

Tso

Bennett

Daniels

Kieyoomia

Tsosie

Brown

Filfred

Perry

Yazzie

Chee

Hale

Smith

Yellowhair

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 8

Bates

BeGaye, N

Pete

Shepherd

Begay, NM

Crotty

Phelps

Slim