

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2019

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION, REAFFIRMATION, AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF NABIN-69-18 TITLED "AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH DIRECT SERVICES ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS"

WHEREAS

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee ("HEHSC") as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHSC to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 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'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(7)(8) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.
- D. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council passed NABIN-69-18 titled "AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH DIRECT SERVICES ON THE NAVAJO

NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS" and is attached hereto as **Exhibit A.**

- E. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs FY 2018 - 2024 Strategic Plan commits the department to making its electronic and information technologies accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (Title 29 U.S.C. § 794d) as amended in 1999.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

- A. The 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council hereby reaffirms NABIN-69-18 as passed by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council.
- B. The Navajo Nation through the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish direct services on the Navajo Nation for Navajo veterans through NABIN-69-18 and this resolution.
- C. The Navajo Nation through the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees, to advocate for this request.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' 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 17 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Jamie Henio  
Second: Honorable Wilson Stewart, Jr.

Chairman Seth Damon not voting



NABIN-69-18

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE

23<sup>rd</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED  
STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH DIRECT  
SERVICES ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHSC to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 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'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.
- D. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. U.S. Gov'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS: IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS 1 (2014).
- E. Currently, there are over 128,000 living Native American veterans with approximately 10,000 from the Navajo Nation. See U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: 2011-2015 American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.

- F. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.
- G. Within the last 5 years, reports of excessive and sometimes deadly waiting times for veterans seeking government healthcare came to light, and President Obama promised accountability. Scott Bronstein & Tom Cohen, *Obama: Shinseki stays for now, but VA misconduct will be punished*, CNN (May 23, 2014) available at [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com).
- H. In 2010, tribal leaders and representatives offered comments on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and other health related issues. One comment recorded showed that IHS understood the native culture, languages, and background; however, IHS did not understand the specific needs of Native veterans like the VA, i.e. post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 2012 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT 11 (2012).
- I. There is currently no United States Veterans Affairs office or services on the Navajo Nation. This requires Navajo veterans to travel off reservation to seek veterans services. The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations from the Navajo Nation General Fund; however assistance through the Navajo Veterans Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.
- J. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish direct services on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish direct services on the Navajo Nation for Navajo veterans.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Nation Washington Office and their designees, to advocate for this request.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</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 10 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 09<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Lee Jack, Sr.  
Second : Honorable Leonard H. Pete

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

*Pursuant to § 700 (D), A quorum of the committee shall be satisfied by the presence of two (2) members of each Standing Committee or a majority of delegates of the Navajo Nation Council.*

**NAVAJO NATION**

174

5/28/2019

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

05:37:25 PM

<b>Amd# to Amd#</b>	Legislation 0019-19: For the	<b>PASSED</b>
MOT Henio, J	Discussion, Reaffirmation, and	
SEC Stewart, W	Possible Amendment of NABIN-69-	
	18 Titled "An Action Relating...	

<b>Yea : 17</b>	<b>Nay : 0</b>	<b>Excused : 3</b>	<b>Not Voting : 3</b>
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**Yea : 17**

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

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 3**

Brown	Tso, C	Crotty
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**Not Voting : 3**

Yazzie	Yellowhair	BeGaye, N
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**Presiding Chair: Damon**