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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FORWARD FUND THE
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the bureau of Indian affairs operates the
higher education grant program as authorized by the Snyder
Act and provides higher education scholarships; and

WHEREAS, numerous Indian tribes administer the higher
education grant program through Public Law 93-638
self-determination contracts or through Public Law 100-472
self-governance compacts; and

WHEREAS, the federal government routinely operates under
continuing resolutions, which results in delayed funding to
the bureau of Indian affairs; consequently, payment of
college scholarships and institutional disbursements are
delayed; and

WHEREAS, this is problematic for Indian college students
who depend on these scholarship payments to pay for tuition,
books and room and board; all too often, Indian students
arrive on campus with little or no money; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for forward funding of
federal Indian education programs in that bureau of Indian
education kindergarten through twelfth grade schools and
tribally controlled colleges and universities have been
forward funded; and

1 WHEREAS, forward funding is a budget authority that is
2 made available for obligation in the last quarter of the
3 fiscal year for the financing of ongoing activities during
4 the next fiscal year; and

5 WHEREAS, forward funding achieves two outcomes: it
6 provides funding for two years in advance and makes funds
7 available on July 1 of each year, and it shields the grant
8 program from government shutdowns, which allows tribes to
9 disburse grant funds ahead of the academic year;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislature request
12 the United States congress to take affirmative steps to
13 forward fund the higher education grant program of the bureau
14 of Indian education; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker
17 of the United States house of representatives, the president
18 of the United States senate, the New Mexico congressional
19 delegation, the tribal leadership of all twenty-three Indian
20 nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico and the secretary of
21 Indian affairs.

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