

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Shannon D. Pinto

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FORWARD FUND THE
12 BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.
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14 WHEREAS, the bureau of Indian affairs operates the higher
15 education grant program as authorized by the Snyder Act and
16 provides higher education scholarships; and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, this is problematic for Indian college students

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1 who depend on these scholarship payments to pay for tuition,
2 books and room and board; all too often, Indian students arrive
3 on campus with little or no money; and

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

9 WHEREAS, forward funding is a budget authority that is
10 made available for obligation in the last quarter of the fiscal
11 year for the financing of ongoing activities during the next
12 fiscal year; and

13 WHEREAS, forward funding achieves two outcomes: it
14 provides funding for two years in advance and makes funds
15 available on July 1 of each year, and it shields the grant
16 program from government shutdowns, which allows tribes to
17 disburse grant funds ahead of the academic year;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislature request the
20 United States congress to take affirmative steps to forward
21 fund the higher education grant program of the bureau of Indian
22 education; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker
25 of the United States house of representatives, the president of

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1 the United States senate, the New Mexico congressional
2 delegation, the Navajo Nation office of the president and vice
3 president, the Navajo Nation council, the president of the
4 Jicarilla Apache Tribe, the president of the Mescalero Apache
5 Tribe, the chair of the all pueblo council of governors and the
6 secretary of Indian affairs.

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