



SENATE MEMORIAL 22-002

BY SENATOR(S) Coram, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Danielson, Donovan, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Hisey, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE FORWARDING FUNDING TO MAKE A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION TO THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operates the Higher Education Grant Program (grant program) as authorized by the federal "Act of November 2, 1921", commonly referred to as the "Snyder Act", 25 U.S.C. sec. 13; and

WHEREAS, Numerous Indian tribal governments provide college financial assistance and scholarships from the grant program directly to Indian college students through the federal "1975 Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act", Pub.L. 93-638, or through the federal "Tribal Self-governance Act of 1994", Pub.L. 103-413; and

WHEREAS, The federal government routinely operates under continuing resolutions. As such, grant program funding is delayed; consequently, college scholarship and financial assistance payments and institutional disbursements are delayed, which is problematic for many Indian college students who depend on these funds to pay for tuition, books, room, and board; and

WHEREAS, There is precedent for forward funding of federal Indian

education programs. BIE-funded schools, including schools receiving funding pursuant to 25 U.S.C. sec.1810 and tribally controlled colleges and universities receiving funding pursuant to 25 U.S.C. sec. 1810, are forward funded; and

WHEREAS, Forward funding of the BIE will make grant program funds available for obligation on July 1 of any given fiscal year, and the funds will remain available until September 30 of the succeeding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Congress may authorize forwarding funding and make a one-time appropriation of such sums, as necessary, to forward fund the BIE grant program; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Colorado Senate strongly urge Congress to forward fund the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program as authorized by the federal "Act of November 2, 1921".

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be sent to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; the Secretary of the United States Senate; each member of Colorado's congressional delegation; Melvin Baker, Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Manuel Heart, Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; and Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation.

Stephen Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE