

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020

AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING PROPOSED BILLS, H.R. 7557 AND S. 4232, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE TO AMEND TITLE VI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority to approve statements of policy of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 (A) and 164 (A).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the delegated authority to review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation; to coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation; and to coordinate all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees and departments of the United States government. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 701 (A)(6) - (8).
- C. On March 27, 2020, U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed into law H.R. 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), P.L. 116-136 (2020) - a comprehensive relief bill intended to respond to the novel Coronavirus.
- D. Under Title V of the CARES Act, the Coronavirus Relief Fund was created and through it, Congress appropriated \$8,000,000,000 for Tribal governments.
- E. Under the CARES Act, the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to pay Tribal Governments no later than 30 days after the date of enactment or by April 26, 2020.

- F. The Navajo Nation did not receive its apportionments of the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the U.S. Treasury until June 15, 2020, and June 18, 2020 (nearly two months after the Congressionally mandated deadline).
- G. Among the enumerated limitations to expending the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund), the federal law currently provides that the Fund may only be used to cover costs "incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020."
- H. On July 9, 2020, Representative Tom O'Halleran introduced H.R. 7557, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments. **Exhibit A.**
- I. On July 20, 2020, Senator Martin Heinrich introduced S. 4232, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments. **Exhibit B.**
- J. Both H.R. 7557 and S. 4232 propose to extend the Coronavirus Relief Fund expenditure deadline of December 30, 2020 to December 30, 2022 by amending "Section 601(d)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801(d)(3)) is amended by inserting "(or, in the case of a Tribal government, December 30, 2022)" after "December 30, 2020". **Exhibits A and B.**
- K. The Navajo Nation's per capita COVID-19 infection rates is one of the highest in the country with 9,334 confirmed cases and 473 deaths as of August 12, 2020 with numbers expected to increase.
- L. Due to the delay in disbursement by the U.S. Treasury and the challenges inherent in developing infrastructure on trust lands, the limited time currently available to Tribal governments to expend CARES Funds does not provide the Navajo Nation with enough time to efficiently and effectively implement the proactive preventive and mitigation measures against the first wave of COVID-19 as envisioned by Congress under the CARES Act, let alone combat the predicted second wave. **See Exhibit C.**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation hereby supports H.R. 7557 and S. 4232, attached as Exhibits A and B, and urges the U.S. Congress to immediately enact H.R. 7557 and S. 4232 to extend the Coronavirus Relief Fund expenditure deadline to December 30, 2022 for Tribal Governments.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' 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 20 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2020.



Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Sept 8, 2020

Date

Motion: Honorable Rickie Nez

Second: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Chairman Seth Damon not voting



116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7557

To amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of  
Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. COOK) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

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## A BILL

To amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend  
the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to  
Tribal Governments.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS**  
4 **RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOV-**  
5 **ERNMENTS.**

6 Section 601(d)(3) of the Social Security Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 801(d)(3)) is amended by inserting “(or, in the  
8 case of a Tribal Government, December 30, 2022)” after  
9 “December 30, 2020”.



116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4232

To amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of  
Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2020

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend  
the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to  
Tribal Governments.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS**  
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8 case of a Tribal government, December 30, 2022)” after  
9 “December 30, 2020”.

NAVAJO NATION

642

9/3/2020

Navajo Nation Naabikiyati Special Meeting

07:18:04 PM

	Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0172-20:Supporting	PASSED
MOT Nez, R		Proposed HR 7557 and S 4232,	
SEC Wauneka, E		Introduced...	

Yeas : 20

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 3

Yea : 20

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

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 3

Crotty	Begay, E	Yellowhair
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Presiding Speaker: Damon