

Senate Engrossed

higher education grants; Indian education

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1002

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT STEPS TO FORWARD FUND THE
HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operates the Higher
4 Education Grant Program ("Grant") as authorized by the Snyder Act (25
5 United States Code part 13); and

6 Whereas, numerous Indian tribal governments provide college
7 financial assistance and scholarships from the Grant directly to Indian
8 college students through Public Law 93-638 self-determination contracts
9 (Indian Self Determination Act and Education Assistance Act) or through
10 Public Law 103-413 self-governance compacts (Tribal Self Governance Act of
11 1994); and

12 Whereas, the federal government routinely operates under continuing
13 resolutions and, as such, Grant funding is delayed. Consequently, college
14 scholarship and financial assistance payments and institutional
15 disbursements are delayed, which is problematic for many Indian college
16 students who depend on these monies to pay for tuition, books and room and
17 board; and

18 Whereas, there is precedent for forward funding federal Indian
19 education programs, as BIE-funded schools, including Public Law 93-638 and
20 Public Law 100-297 schools (25 United States Code section 2010) and
21 tribally controlled colleges and universities (25 United States Code
22 section 1810), are forward funded; and

23 Whereas, forward funding the BIE would make Grant monies available
24 for obligation on July 1 of the fiscal year and would provide that Grant
25 monies remain available until September 30 of the succeeding fiscal year.

26 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House
27 of Representatives concurring, prays:

28 1. That the Members of the United States Congress take affirmative
29 steps to forward fund the Higher Education Grant Program of the Bureau of
30 Indian Education.

31 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
32 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
33 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of
34 Congress from the State of Arizona.