

Jon's Native Education Legislation in the 114th

S. 1745 Extracurricular Programs for Indian Children (EPIC) Act

This bill seeks to increase the availability of culturally-informed educational opportunities for Native students outside of the school day by establishing an extracurricular activities grant program at USDA specifically for tribal communities.

Bill Benefits:

- Program Operations and Staffing Cost Support
- Multi-Use Educational Facility Funding
- Direct Tribal Access to Federal Student Food Programs

S. 1928 Native Educator Support and Training (NEST) Act

Co-Sponsors: Franken (D-MN), Heinrich (D-NM), Udall (D-NM)

This bill recognizes the importance of investing in Native educators who invest so much of themselves in helping Native youth. It does this by creating and expanding scholarship programs, federal student loan forgiveness plans, and professional development courses for prospective and existing educators who commit to teaching at a public school that serves a large number of Native students, a BIE-funded school, or a TCU.

Bill Benefits:

- Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Scholarships
- Loan Forgiveness to Relieve Educator Debt
- Professional Development and Career Growth

S. 2304 Tribal Early Childhood, Education, and Related Services Integration Act of 2015

Co-Sponsor: Schatz (D-HI)

This bill embraces the link between school readiness and a first-rate early childhood education. It allows tribes that operate multiple federal early childhood grants to maximize the impact of their grant dollars through implementation of unified early childhood services delivery plans. In addition, it includes provisions to reduce duplicative bureaucratic reporting requirements, develop early childhood education infrastructure, and extend federal teacher loan forgiveness programs to early childhood educators.

Bill Benefits:

- Emphasis on Expanded Early Childhood Learning in Indian Country
- Reduction of Burdensome Bureaucratic Red-tape
- Teacher Scholarship and Education Facility Supports

S. 2468 Safe Academic Facilities and Environments for Tribal Youth (SAFETY) Act

Co-Sponsor: Cantwell (D-WA)

This bill addresses the infrastructure and facility needs of all schools that serve tribal communities – BIE schools, Impact Aid schools, and TCUs – by providing funding to upgrade classrooms, teacher housing, college dormitories, STEM labs, and vocational facilities. Additionally, it requires the Department of the Interior to develop a detailed plan to bring all BIE school facilities to an acceptable condition within 10 years.

Bill Benefits:

- Concrete Solutions for BIE's Construction Backlog
- Support for Teacher Housing and TCUs
- Inspecting Facility Needs of Non-BIE Reservation Schools

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER