

COPY

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2001

The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dicks:

We are writing to request increased funding for Titles I and II of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act. In order to maintain current services, ensure continued accreditation, allow for inflation and increased student enrollments, we request \$43.4 million for fiscal year 2002.

Tribal colleges are relatively young institutions created to address the unique situations of American Indians living on reservations in some of this nation's most rural and isolated areas, by bringing higher education opportunities to their communities. Many of the students are single mothers, above the traditional college age, who are seeking another chance at a productive life. Despite chronically inadequate funding, tribal colleges comply with the strict standards of mainstream accreditation agencies and offer top-quality academic programs. In 1997, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in a two-year study of the tribal colleges, cited the institutions' many successes and strongly recommended that the federal government provide the authorized level of funding.

Unfortunately, stable sources of financial support for these colleges are extremely limited. While public higher education institutions are able to rely on state support, tribal colleges are reliant solely on federal assistance for their basic operations funding because of their location on federal trust lands. States have no obligation to assist these colleges. In fact, most states do not even provide assistance for the non-Indian state-resident students attending tribal colleges who account for approximately 20 percent of enrollments.

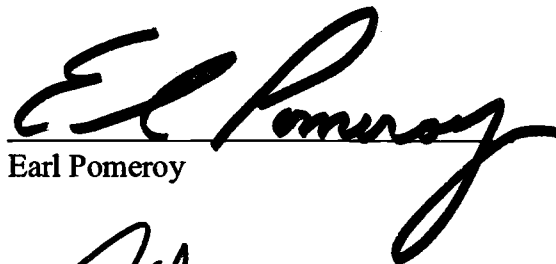
Funding for the Title I Institutions is enrollment driven and based on a per full-time Indian student allocation. Title II funds Diné College (formerly Navajo Community College) based on institutional need rather than Indian student count. Since 1968, Diné has grown dramatically from one main campus in Tsaile, Arizona to eight campus facilities located in New Mexico and Arizona. The college strives to provide educational opportunities to a growing Navajo population of approximately 250,000.

The main goal of the 25 tribal colleges and universities funded under the Act is to secure funding at the authorized level of \$6,000 for the equivalent of each full-time Indian student or Indian Student Count (ISC). The current ISC funding level is \$3,840. These institutions of higher education are cognizant of budget constraints and understand that this goal can be more realistically reached on an incremental basis. The funding we have requested would increase the per ISC level to \$4,500, or two-thirds the authorized level.

In addition, the FY2001 Interior Appropriations Conference Report included language that requires the tribal colleges to submit an annual report to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The report must describe the programs and services at each institution including all sources of funding that support its operations and facilities and the amount of funding by source for each college's most recent fiscal year, the past fiscal year, and any proposed program expansion or changes in operations for the budget year. This unfunded mandate will further tax the already strained financial and human resources of these colleges. We, therefore, are requesting that the technical assistance account authorized under the Act be funded at \$314,000, an increase of \$200,000, to allow these institutions to conduct the data collection necessary to comply with this new reporting requirement.

Tribal colleges are a lifeline for those living on reservations, providing not only educational opportunities, but also significant dividends for their communities in terms of employment, training and economic development. We strongly urge you to support this modest increase to help the tribal colleges maintain their high educational standards, build upon their many successes, and improve services to students and their communities. Thank you for consideration of our request.

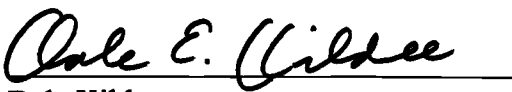
Sincerely,



Earl Pomeroy



Jay Byrnes



Dale Kildee



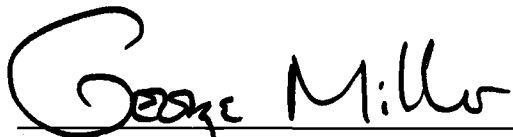
J.D. Hayworth



Frank Pallone

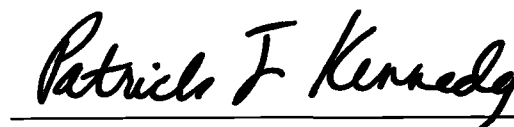



Martin Frost


George Miller

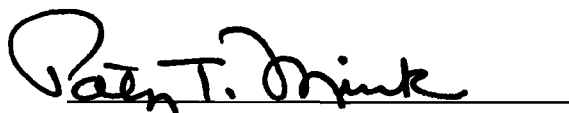

Mary Bono


Neil Abercrombie



Patrick Kennedy

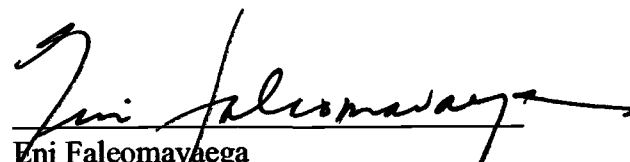

Joe Baca


Bob Filner

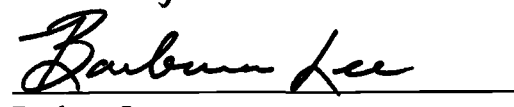

Patsy Mink


Rick Larsen


James Oberstar

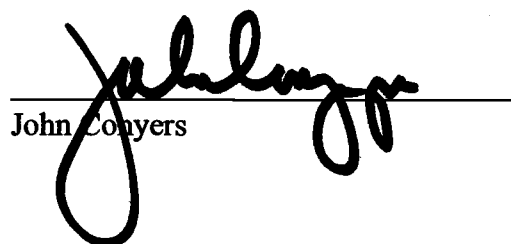

Eni Faleomavaega

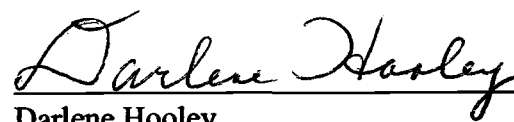

Doug Bereuter



Barbara Lee

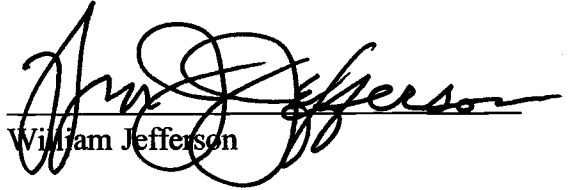

Tom Udall


Grace Napolitano

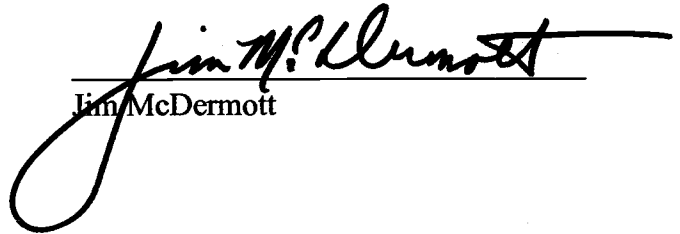

John Conyers


Darlene Hooley


Henry Waxman


William Jefferson


Mark Green


Jim McDermott


John Thune

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2001

The Honorable Joe Skeen, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Skeen:

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Unfortunately, stable sources of financial support for these colleges are extremely limited. While public higher education institutions are able to rely on state support, tribal colleges are reliant solely on federal assistance for their basic operations funding because of their location on federal trust lands. States have no obligation to assist these colleges. In fact, most states do not even provide assistance for the non-Indian state-resident students attending tribal colleges who account for approximately 20 percent of enrollments.

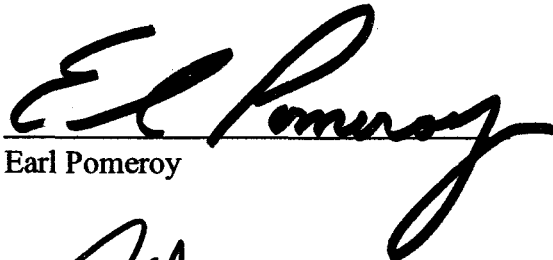
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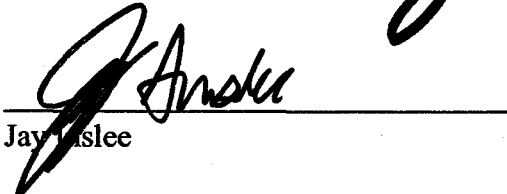
Sincerely,



Earl Pomeroy



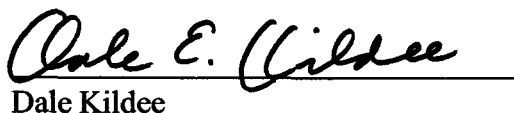
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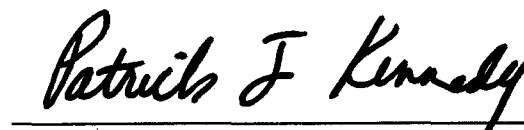


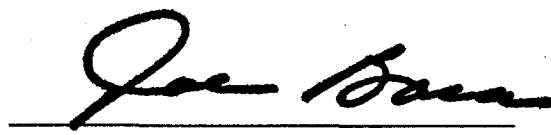
Martin Frost


George Miller

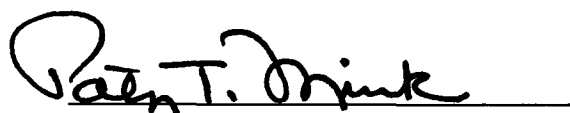

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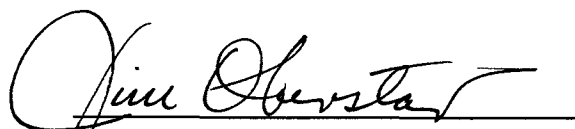

Patrick Kennedy

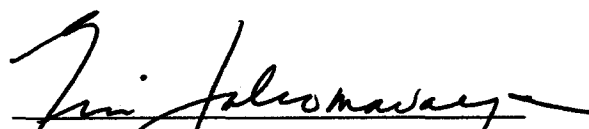

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Rick Larsen

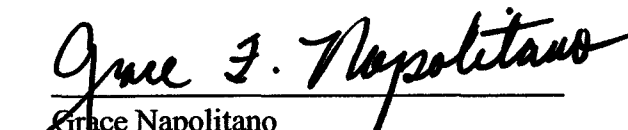

James Oberstar

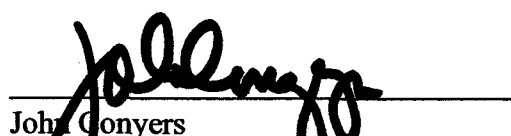

Ehi Faleomavaega

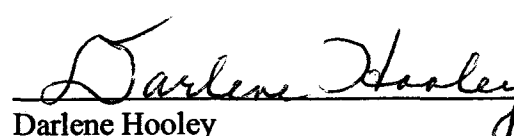

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Tom Udall


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John Conyers


Darlene Hooley

Henry A Waxman

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Mark Green

Mark Green

John Thune

John Thune

William Jefferson

William Jefferson

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COPY

March 15, 2001

Honorable Michael H. Trujillo, MD
Director, Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Trujillo:

We are writing to express our concern that the \$70 million in additional diabetes funding for the FY2001 Department of Health and Human Services budget will not be distributed to tribes in a timely manner, due to the fact that we are already in the fifth month of the fiscal year.

In addition, it is our understanding that there are tribes with high rates of diabetes that are funded at a low level in respect to their need, as indicated by the Level of Need Funded Study. For these tribes, the existing diabetes grants are inadequate and do not allow tribes to provide even the most basic of care, such as modern medications and strips to test their blood sugar. Given the level of additional diabetes funding, we believe grants to these tribes should be increased immediately in proportion to the overall increased funding of the program (333 percent). In cases where excess funds are available due to other tribes being unable to expend their entire allotted resources, the allotment should be higher if justified by the recipient tribe.

We endorse the concept of tribal consultation and recognize the importance of tribal participation in decisions regarding funding allocations, including a review of the existing funding formulas for the diabetes grants. If the consultation process results in recommendations for changes in diabetes funding, it will likely be impossible to implement the changes prior to the end of FY2001. Thus, it will be important to incorporate these changes in funding prior to FY2002.

We see no justification for the IHS withholding the additional funding through the end of the fiscal year. It is desperately needed at the tribal level to treat people with diabetes and to prevent complications from this terrible disease. We, therefore, urge you to immediately distribute the additional FY 2001 funds in accordance with the current formula and to promptly begin discussions on how to refine the formula in order to more adequately reflect individual levels of need. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robinson

Von Lee

Seibert

Wray Bond

Frank D. Lucas

Barbara Lee

Frank Palmer Jr.

Col R. Bligh

Steve Largent

John Smith

Jim Zimm

Grace F. Napolitano

Rick Zansen

Joe Green

Wes Watkins

Darlene Hooley

Rich Rahall

P. M. J.

Carolyn B. Maloney

John Longenecker

Ernest J. Cook

Bob Filner

Jim Oberstar

Barry Stupak

Carolyn C. Kiepatnik

Carolyn C. Kiepatnik

George Miller

George Miller

George Miller

Thom Gofferson

Thom Gofferson

Marine Waters

Marine Waters

Marine Waters

Marine Waters

Signatures on the Letter to Dr. Trujillo

<i>Member Name</i>	<i>Room Number</i>
<i>Steve Largent</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>Adam Smith</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>Jim Turner</i>	<i>208</i>
<i>Charles Taylor</i>	<i>231</i>
<i>William Jefferson</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Brad Carson</i>	<i>317</i>
<i>Rod Blagojevich</i>	<i>331</i>
<i>Sheila Jackson-Lee</i>	<i>403</i>
<i>Mary Bono</i>	<i>404</i>
<i>Frank Pallone, Jr.</i>	<i>420</i>
<i>Barbara Lee</i>	<i>426</i>
<i>Frank D. Lucas</i>	<i>438</i>
<i>Tom Udall</i>	<i>502</i>
<i>Darlene Hooley</i>	<i>1130</i>
<i>Joe Baca</i>	<i>1133</i>
<i>Nick Rahall</i>	<i>1329</i>
<i>Wes Watkins</i>	<i>1401</i>
<i>J.C. Watts</i>	<i>1433</i>
<i>Rick Larsen</i>	<i>1529</i>
<i>Grace Napolitano</i>	<i>1609</i>
<i>Carolyn Kilpatrick</i>	<i>1610</i>
<i>Dale Kildee</i>	<i>2107</i>
<i>Henry Waxman</i>	<i>2204</i>
<i>George Miller</i>	<i>2205</i>
<i>Edolphus Towns</i>	<i>2232</i>
<i>Gary Condit</i>	<i>2234</i>
<i>Martin Frost</i>	<i>2256</i>
<i>Maxine Waters</i>	<i>2344</i>
<i>Bart Stupak</i>	<i>2348</i>
<i>Jemes Oberstar</i>	<i>2365</i>
<i>Ernest Istook</i>	<i>2404</i>
<i>Eni Faleomavaega</i>	<i>2422</i>
<i>John Conyers, Jr.</i>	<i>2426</i>
<i>Carolyn Maloney</i>	<i>2430</i>
<i>Bob Filner</i>	<i>2463</i>