

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4510

To establish a Native American language resource center.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2020

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. UDALL) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Native American language resource center.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Native American Lan-
5 guage Resource Center Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are to create a national re-
8 source center to further the policies set forth in the Native
9 American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) and,
10 through such national resource center, to—

11 (1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights
12 and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice,

1 and develop Native American languages (as defined
2 in section 103 of the Native American Languages
3 Act (25 U.S.C. 2902));

4 (2) allow the United States to fulfill its trust
5 responsibility to Native American communities and
6 address the effects of past discrimination against
7 Native American language speakers;

8 (3) support revitalization of Native American
9 languages;

10 (4) encourage and support the use of Native
11 American languages as a medium of instruction, in-
12 cluding use as a medium of education in schools op-
13 erated by Tribes, States, the Federal Government,
14 and Native American language educational organiza-
15 tions;

16 (5) encourage and support the use and develop-
17 ment of Native American languages as the medium
18 of instruction for a wide variety of age levels and
19 academic content areas;

20 (6) encourage and support elementary schools,
21 secondary schools, and institutions of higher edu-
22 cation to include Native American languages in the
23 curriculum in the same manner as other world lan-
24 guages, including through cooperative agreements
25 and distance education, and to grant proficiency in

1 Native American languages the same full academic
2 credit as proficiency in other world languages;

3 (7) encourage and support the development of
4 appropriate teacher preparation programming for
5 the teaching of, and through, Native American lan-
6 guages, including appropriate alternative pathways
7 to teacher certification;

8 (8) provide a resource base to provide informa-
9 tion to Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments
10 and Native American educational organizations to
11 allow the spread of best practices in the use, prac-
12 tice, and development of Native American languages
13 in Native American communities, including use in
14 educational institutions;

15 (9) provide a resource base for the use of tech-
16 nology in intensive community-, land-, and archive-
17 based programs, as well as hybrid and collaborative
18 programs in supporting the retention, use, develop-
19 ment, and teaching of Native American languages by
20 government and private entities;

21 (10) provide a developmental base from which
22 interested Tribal colleges and universities and other
23 Native American entities might develop fully func-
24 tioning Native American language medium education
25 systems that include associated preschool, elemen-

1 tary school, secondary school, and adult education
 2 programs conducted through the medium of Native
 3 American languages;

4 (11) provide a means to further collaboration
 5 among formal government, institutional, and com-
 6 munity-based Native American language programs,
 7 resources, and research efforts with additional access
 8 to international best practices in indigenous lan-
 9 guage revitalization; and

10 (12) develop a support center system for Native
 11 American language participants to gather and share
 12 helpful information and experiences.

13 **SEC. 3. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER.**

14 Section 603 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 15 U.S.C. 1123) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
 17 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(b) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CEN-
 21 TER AUTHORIZED.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
 23 to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with,
 24 an eligible entity for the purpose of—

1 “(A) establishing, strengthening, and oper-
2 ating a Native American language resource and
3 training center as described in paragraph (2);
4 and

5 “(B) staffing the center with individuals
6 who have high-level fluency in American Indian,
7 Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages
8 and are experienced with Native American lan-
9 guage education in the preschool, elementary
10 school, secondary school, adult education, and
11 higher education programs.

12 “(2) PURPOSES OF CENTER.—The Native
13 American language resource center established under
14 paragraph (1) shall serve as a resource to—

15 “(A) improve the capacity to teach and
16 learn Native American languages and further
17 Native American language acquisition;

18 “(B) preserve, protect, and promote the
19 rights and freedom of Native Americans to use,
20 practice, and develop Native American lan-
21 guages;

22 “(C) allow the United States to fulfill its
23 trust responsibility to Native American commu-
24 nities and address the effects of past discrimi-

1 nation against Native American language
2 speakers;

3 “(D) support revitalization of Native
4 American languages;

5 “(E) encourage and support the use of Na-
6 tive American languages as a medium of in-
7 struction, including use as a medium of edu-
8 cation in schools operated by Tribes, States, the
9 Federal Government, and Native American lan-
10 guage educational organizations;

11 “(F) encourage and support the use and
12 development of Native American languages as
13 the medium of instruction for a wide variety of
14 age levels and academic content areas;

15 “(G) encourage and support elementary
16 schools, secondary schools, and institutions of
17 higher education to include Native American
18 languages in the curriculum in the same man-
19 ner as other world languages, including through
20 cooperative agreements and distance education,
21 and to grant proficiency in Native American
22 languages the same full academic credit as pro-
23 ficiency in other world languages;

24 “(H) encourage and support the develop-
25 ment of appropriate teacher preparation pro-

1 gramming for the teaching of, and through, Na-
2 tive American languages, including appropriate
3 alternative pathways to teacher certification;

4 “(I) provide a resource base to provide in-
5 formation to Federal, Tribal, State, and local
6 governments and Native American educational
7 organizations to allow the spread of best prac-
8 tices in the use, practice, and development of
9 Native American languages in Native American
10 communities, including use in educational insti-
11 tutions;

12 “(J) provide a resource base for the use of
13 technology in intensive community-, land-, and
14 archive-based programs, as well as hybrid and
15 collaborative programs in supporting the reten-
16 tion, use, development, and teaching of Native
17 American languages by government and private
18 entities;

19 “(K) support the acquisition of distance
20 learning technologies and training for parents,
21 students, teachers, and learning support staff,
22 including the compilation and curation of digi-
23 tal libraries and other online resources in tar-
24 get Native American languages, the develop-
25 ment of distance learning curricula appropriate

for preschool, elementary school, secondary school, adult education, and postsecondary education, the pedagogical training for teachers, and other efforts necessary to continue Native American language acquisition among American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian communities through distance learning;

“(L) provide a developmental base from which interested Tribal colleges and universities and other Native American entities might develop fully functioning Native American language medium education systems that include associated preschool, elementary school, secondary school, and adult education programs conducted through the medium of Native American languages;

“(M) provide a means to further collaboration among formal government, institutional, and community-based Native American language programs, resources, and research efforts with additional access to international best practices in indigenous language revitalization;

“(N) develop a support center system for Native American language participants to gath-

er and share helpful information and experiences; and

“(O) address any of the purposes of foreign language centers included under this section if, in doing so, the Native American language resource and training center—

“(i) does so as a subsidiary activity;

“(ii) focuses benefits on Native Americans living in Native American communities, or closely tied to such communities; and

“(iii) ensures that one of the outcomes being strengthened through this subparagraph is the use of one or more Native American languages in a Native American community.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) an institution of higher education;

“(ii) a consortium of such institutions;

or

“(iii) a consortium of such institutions and other entities with unique responsibilities for Native American languages.

1 “(B) NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMER-
2 ICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms ‘Native Amer-
3 ican’ and ‘Native American language’ have the
4 meanings given those terms in section 103 of
5 the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.
6 2902).”; and
7 (3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of
8 subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by
9 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “this sec-
10 tion”.

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