Urge House Leadership to Pass S. 256

Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act

Native languages are in crisis. It is estimated that only twenty indigenous languages will have active speakers by the year 2050. Language loss threatens the academic achievement of Native students, who thrive when Native languages, histories, and traditions are included and valued in the classroom. Native language immersion programs are critical to reversing this trend.

Originally passed in 2006, the Esther Martinez program provides funding to support and strengthen Native American language immersion programs, including language nests, language survival schools, and language restoration programs. The reauthorization of this Act would provide additional opportunities for Native nations to increase speaker fluency of Native languages, and reinforce the traditions and cultures of these nations in the United States.

On January 29, 2019, Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) introduced S. 256, Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act. On June 27, 2019, S. 256 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. On January 30, 2019, Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) introduced companion legislation, H.R. 912, which was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Given Senate passage, we ask Native nations, leaders, and educators to write letters to House leadership urging the prompt passage of S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act. Please share a copy of your letters with NCAI and NIEA so that we can document support from Native nations and communities.
Template Letter to House Leadership

Please find staff contacts for the following offices referenced in the template letter below:

- **The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**, Speaker, House of Representatives: Kenneth.Degraff@mail.house.gov;
- **The Honorable Steny Hoyer**, Majority Leader, House of Representatives: Trent.Bauserman@mail.house.gov
- **The Honorable James Clyburn**, Majority Whip, House of Representatives: Willie.LylesIII@mail.house.gov
- **The Honorable Bobby Scott**, Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee: Loredana.Valtierra@mail.house.gov

NIEA Esther Martinez One-Pager

NIEA Resolution in Support of Esther Martinez

NCAI Resolution in Support of Esther Martinez

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