

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2271

To establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 26, 2021

Mr. Young (for himself, Ms. Leger Fernandez, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Kahele, Mr. Kilmer, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. O'Halleran, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Sablan, and Mr. Cleaver) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act.

- 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 of 2021".
- 6 SEC. 2. PURPOSES.
- 7 The purposes of this Act are to further the policies
- 8 set forth in the Native American Languages Act (25

- 1 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) by creating a national resource center
- 2 and, through such national resource center and actions,
- 3 to—
- 4 (1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights
- 5 and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice,
- 6 and develop Native American languages (as defined
- 7 in section 103 of the Native American Languages
- 8 Act (25 U.S.C. 2902));
- 9 (2) allow the United States to fulfill its trust
- 10 responsibility to Native American communities and
- address the effects of past discrimination against
- 12 Native American language speakers;
- 13 (3) support revitalization of Native American
- languages;
- 15 (4) encourage and support the use of Native
- American languages as a medium of instruction, in-
- cluding use as a medium of education in schools op-
- erated by Tribes, States, territories, the Federal
- 19 Government, and Native American language edu-
- 20 cational organizations;
- 21 (5) encourage and support the use and develop-
- 22 ment of Native American languages as the medium
- of instruction for a wide variety of age levels and
- 24 academic content areas;

1 (6) support metrics aligned with the Native 2 American language of instruction, including assess-3 ments, qualifications, and processes based on well-4 demonstrated best practices in Native American lan-5 guage medium education;

(7) identify—

- (A) barriers to Native American language education and learning within Federal laws; and
- (B) actions needed for alignment with the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.);
- (8) encourage and support elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education to include Native American languages in the curriculum in the same manner as other world languages, including through cooperative agreements and distance education, and to grant proficiency in Native American languages the same full academic credit as proficiency in other world languages;
- (9) encourage and support the development of appropriate teacher preparation programming for the teaching of, and through, Native American languages, including appropriate alternative pathways to teacher certification;

- 1 (10) provide a resource base to provide infor2 mation to Federal, Tribal, State, territory, and local
 3 governments and Native American educational orga4 nizations to allow the spread of best practices in the
 5 use, practice, and development of Native American
 6 languages in Native American communities, includ7 ing use in educational institutions;
 - (11) provide a resource base for the use of technology in intensive community-, land-, and archive-based programs, as well as hybrid and collaborative programs in supporting the retention, use, development, and teaching of Native American languages by government and private entities;
 - (12) 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;
 - (13) provide a means to further collaboration among formal government, institutional, and community-based Native American language programs, resources, and research efforts with additional access

1	to international best practices in indigenous lan-
2	guage revitalization; and
3	(14) develop a support center system for Native
4	American language participants to gather and share
5	helpful information and experiences.
6	SEC. 3. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER.
7	Section 603 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8	U.S.C. 1123) is amended—
9	(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
10	subsections (c) and (d), respectively;
11	(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
12	lowing:
13	"(b) Native American Language Resource Cen-
14	TER AUTHORIZED.—
15	"(1) In general.—The Secretary is authorized
16	to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with,
17	an eligible entity for the purpose of—
18	"(A) establishing, strengthening, and oper-
19	ating a Native American language resource and
20	training center as described in paragraph (2);
21	and
22	"(B) staffing the center with individuals
23	who have high-level fluency in American Indian,
24	Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages
25	and are experienced with Native American lan-

1	guage education in preschool, elementary
2	school, secondary school, adult education, and
3	higher education programs.
4	"(2) Purposes of Center.—The Native
5	American language resource center established under
6	paragraph (1) shall serve as a resource to—
7	"(A) improve the capacity to teach and
8	learn Native American languages and further
9	Native American language acquisition;
10	"(B) preserve, protect, and promote the
11	rights and freedom of Native Americans to use,
12	practice, and develop Native American lan-
13	guages;
14	"(C) allow the United States to fulfill its
15	trust responsibility to Native American commu-
16	nities and address the effects of past discrimi-
17	nation against Native American language
18	speakers;
19	"(D) support revitalization of Native
20	American languages;
21	"(E) encourage and support the use of Na-
22	tive American languages as a medium of in-
23	struction, including use as a medium of edu-
24	cation in schools operated by Tribes, States, the

1	Federal Government, and Native American lan-
2	guage educational organizations;
3	"(F) encourage and support the use and
4	development of Native American languages as
5	the medium of instruction for a wide variety of
6	age levels and academic content areas;
7	"(G) support metrics aligned with the Na-
8	tive American language of instruction, including
9	assessments, qualifications, and processes based
10	on well-demonstrated best practices in Native
11	American language medium education;
12	"(H) identify barriers to Native American
13	language education and learning within Federal
14	laws and actions needed for alignment with the
15	Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.
16	2901);
17	"(I) encourage and support elementary
18	schools, secondary schools, and institutions of
19	higher education to include Native American
20	languages in the curriculum in the same man-
21	ner as other world languages, including through
22	cooperative agreements and distance education,
23	and to grant proficiency in Native American
24	languages the same full academic credit as pro-

ficiency in other world languages;

"(J) encourage and support the development of appropriate teacher preparation programming for the teaching of, and through, Native American languages, including appropriate
alternative pathways to teacher certification;

"(K) provide a resource base to provide in-

"(K) provide a resource base to provide information to Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments and Native American educational organizations to allow the spread of best practices in the use, practice, and development of Native American languages in Native American communities, including use in educational institutions;

"(L) provide a resource base for the use of technology in intensive community-, land-, and archive-based programs, as well as hybrid and collaborative programs in supporting the retention, use, development, and teaching of Native American languages by government and private entities;

"(M) support the acquisition of distance learning technologies and training for parents, students, teachers, and learning support staff, including the compilation and curation of digital libraries and other online resources in tar-

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get Native American languages, the development 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 through distance learning;

"(N) 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;

"(O) 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;

"(P) develop a support center system for Native American language participants to gath-

1	er and share helpful information and experi-
2	ences; and
3	"(Q) address any of the purposes of for-
4	eign language centers included under this sec-
5	tion if, in doing so, the Native American lan-
6	guage resource center—
7	"(i) does so as a subsidiary activity;
8	"(ii) focuses benefits on Native Amer-
9	icans living in Native American commu-
10	nities, or closely tied to such communities.
11	and
12	"(iii) ensures that one of the out-
13	comes being strengthened through this
14	subparagraph is the use of one or more
15	Native American languages in a Native
16	American community.
17	"(3) Definitions.—In this subsection:
18	"(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligi-
19	ble entity' means—
20	"(i) an institution of higher education
21	"(ii) an entity within an institution of
22	higher education with dedicated responsi-
23	bility for Native American language and
24	culture education;

1	"(iii) a consortium of such institu-
2	tions; or
3	"(iv) a consortium of such institutions
4	and other entities with unique responsibil-
5	ities for Native American languages.
6	"(B) Native American; native Amer-
7	ICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms 'Native Amer-
8	ican' and 'Native American language' have the
9	meanings given those terms in section 103 of
10	the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C.
11	2902).
12	"(4) Authorization of appropriations.—
13	There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
14	this subsection, \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.";
15	and
16	(3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of
17	subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by
18	striking "subsection (a)" and inserting "this sec-
19	tion".