

Committee: Education & Culture

Date: 10-22-14

Committee Date: 11-13-14

Author: Dianne Barker Harrold

Sponsor: David Walkingstick, T. Glory Jordan,
F. Narjis, J. Byrd, D. Garvin, C. Cowan Watts,

J. Fullbright, D. Thornton, C. Snell, H. Buzzard,
V. Vazquez, J. Taylor, D. Lay, L. Keener,
J. D. Baker, J. Coates

RESOLUTION NO. 85-14

COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2014

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government in behalf of the Cherokee people; and,

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a major supporter of education initiatives and funding for tribal citizens as well as Native American school teachers; and,

WHEREAS, the National Congress is considering the American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014 by Senate Bill 2458 and House Resolutions 5370. The "American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014" will amend Title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965. This legislation will allow up to \$17,500 of loan forgiveness to borrowers under the Federal Family Education Loan program or the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program if you are (1) a member of an Indian tribe and (2) have been employed as a full-time teacher for five consecutive school years in an Indian school or in a local educational agency that serves at least 10 Indian students or whose schools have an enrollment of at least 25% American Indian students.

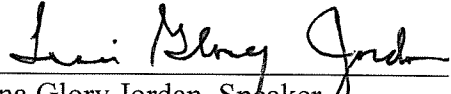
WHEREAS, American Indian students are one of the most under-represented groups in college and higher education. Many American Indian students do not have the resources available to attend college. This American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014 is one way to help American Indian students receive assistance with their student loan debt and to encourage American Indian students to focus on becoming teachers; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the Cherokee Nation is supporting this act and is passing this resolution to be shared with the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., to request their support and approval of the American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014; and therefore,

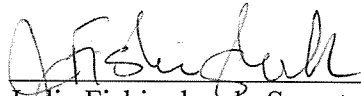
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION, that the Council of the Cherokee Nation is hereby support American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014 and is passing this resolution to be shared with the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., to request their support and approval of the American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014.

CERTIFICATION

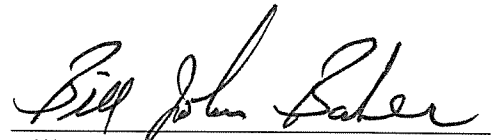
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 13 day of November, 2014, having 16 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 16 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.


Tina Glory Jordan, Speaker
Council of the Cherokee Nation

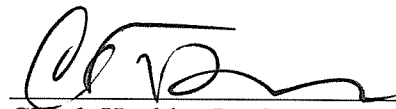
ATTEST:


Jodie Fishinghawk, Secretary
Council of the Cherokee Nation

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 20 day of November, 2014.


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:


Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Secretary of State
Cherokee Nation

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5370

To provide student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2014

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students.

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 “American Indian
5 Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR AMERICAN IN-**
2 **DIAN EDUCATORS TEACHING IN LOCAL EDU-**
3 **CATIONAL AGENCIES WITH A HIGH PERCENT-**
4 **AGE OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS.**

5 (a) PART B LOANS.—Section 428J(e) of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–10(e)) is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHERS IN LOCAL
9 EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE
10 OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS.—Notwithstanding
11 the amount specified in paragraph (1) and the re-
12 quirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
13 subsection (b)(1), the aggregate amount that the
14 Secretary shall repay under this section shall be not
15 more than \$17,500 in the case of a borrower who—

16 “(A) has been employed as a full-time
17 teacher for 5 consecutive complete school years
18 as a teacher in a local educational agency de-
19 scribed in section 7112(b) of the Elementary
20 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in a
21 school overseen by the Bureau of Indian Edu-
22 cation of the Department; and

23 “(B) is a member of an Indian tribe (as
24 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
25 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
26 U.S.C. 450b)).”.

1 (b) PART D LOANS.—Section 460(c) of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087j(c)) is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHERS IN LOCAL
5 EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE
6 OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS.—Notwithstanding
7 the amount specified in paragraph (1) and the re-
8 quirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
9 subsection (b)(1), the aggregate amount that the
10 Secretary shall cancel under this section shall be not
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20 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
21 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
22 U.S.C. 450b)).”.

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113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2458

To provide student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2014

Mr. WALSH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To provide student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students.

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 “American Indian
5 Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR AMERICAN IN-**
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22 U.S.C. 450b)).”

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