

From: [Matilda E Begay](#)
To: [Interim Education](#)
Subject: Draft a Bill for
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 9:39:09 AM

My name is Matilda Etistty Begay. I am a registered tribe member of the Navajo Nation. My family and I reside in Las Vegas, Nevada. We have called Nevada home for the past 12 years. My oldest daughter started her formal education here in Clark County School District. This year she is a Freshman at Rancho High School. My youngest daughter was born here in Nevada and knows Las Vegas as her home. She attends Mabel Hoggard Math & Science Magnet Elementary School.

I am asking that you pass a law allowing Indigenous students to wear their cultural attire during their high school graduation ceremonies. My oldest daughter, Charly Begay, has grown up with our cultural and traditional beliefs. She has supported and participated in Navajo ceremonies. She is proud. This is the same for Boston, my youngest daughter. To think that she may not get to show her pride to her school family is baffling to me. Our traditional dress and regalia is a part of who she is. Formal schooling is important to our family. My mother did not graduate high school. My grandmother did not attend any formal school, thankfully. But, these ladies now see the importance of school in today's society and they want to support their grandchildren. Allowing Charly to walk across the stage and receive her High School diploma in traditional dress and regalia will bring so much pride, happiness, acceptance, beauty to our family and to the Las Vegas community.

I close with hopes that you hear our voice.

Respectfully,
Matilda E. Begay