

To the Members of the Legislature.

I am an enrolled Washoe Tribal member who grew up in northern Nevada and has lived here most of my life. I am writing to encourage a vote against AB532.

The Native Fee Waiver, as it currently stands, has been a method and tool for many Native people to access higher education and rapid skills training programs, such as vocational, trade, and professional programs. This is evident by the large number of certificates given during the recent availability of the Native American Fee Waiver as it currently stands.

We know that NSHE has been tasked with producing highly skilled and certified people. The large number of companies committing to moving into Nevada demand this, and it's a heavy lift. Removing vocational and certificate programs from the fee waiver prevents NSHE from meeting that demand. Not only are these programs often designed in response to industry demand, but they also provide entry or reentry into the workforce for large numbers of Native people.

Limiting the programs eligible for the Fee Waiver will significantly impact the fiscal growth of Nevada's economic reality. I implore NSHE and legislative members to be more inventive in how our system of higher education is funded. Old funding formulas will no longer meet the realities of the communities in Nevada or that of industry and NSHE itself. I suggest combining Adult Basic Education with these vocational, trade, and professional programs. ABE, a fully funded federal program, provides stable funding to non-credit programs. The educational delivery method of Integrated Education and Training is the exact academic delivery tool that can support integrating ABE into the programs that AB532 seeks to remove from the Fee Waiver. It adds contextualized industry math, reading, and writing to programs; additional academic support that all communities of all groups will need; providing extra support gives people a greater chance at success and completing programs.

Please vote NO on AB532, an enrolled Washoe Tribal Member.