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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting \$862,813 under the Fiscal Year 2023, Department of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education – Innovation & Improvement account for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Language Nest Project located in Tucson, Arizona. The entity receiving the project is located 7474 S. Camino De Oeste Tucson, AZ 85746. The location of the project is 5100 W Calle Tetakusim, Tucson, AZ 85746.

The requested funding is urgently needed by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, a sovereign Native American Tribe whose Education Department has been invested in the process of developing an Independent Tribal School System. All of the outcomes of this work address innovation and improvement in the areas of curricula development, teacher training, acquisition of books and computers, arts education, and social and emotional learning activities.

The allocation of these federal funds will support the independent tribal school system by training ten proficient Yaqui language teachers who will concurrently develop curricula and instructional materials that will innovate the way the Yaqui language is taught to a broader group of early childhood and K-12 learners. After the completion of this program this group will become full-time Yaqui language learners who will meet the following outcomes:

- Achieve language mastery to aid in the development of a Language Nest for early childhood education and culturally relevant companion curriculums for early childhood to first grade.
- Develop song, rhyme and movement routines inherent to the Yaqui environment and culture for early childhood through first grade.
- Develop language proficiency bands for early childhood through first grade.
- Develop companion language, culture math and history curriculum for early childhood to first grade.

This funding request is valuable use of taxpayer funds as there is a dire need for Pascua Yaqui to support a community of children of whom 80% are minimally proficient in Math and English is a community in crisis. The projection for the Yaqui workforce and its very sovereignty as a nation are dependent upon having highly skilled and well-adjusted community members. There are fewer than one hundred proficient Yaqui language speakers and a dwindling population of elders with cultural knowledge, it is imperative that the tribe take action to not only improve the educational outcomes of their students, but to preserve the language, culture and history. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project.

**I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'R'.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress