



## HB 137 // Native American Projects Representative Derrick Lente

*Every child deserves the educational opportunities to pursue their dreams.*

Students from tribal communities across New Mexico do not have access to quality early childhood programs, as well other educational resources that are required to provide a sufficient education.

New Mexico ranks 8th in the country for the worst internet connectedness, with 22% of the population lacking access to consistent, high-speed internet.

For students and families to succeed in the 21st century, access to reliable internet, either at home or as a community resource is a must.

Our multicultural, multilingual, and geographical diversity is one of our biggest strengths. We must ensure that students and families have equitable access to resources for educational success.

There are 342,000 people in New Mexico without adequate access to an internet connection capable of 25mbps download speeds.

By funding libraries, as well as Education and Early Childhood Resource Centers on tribal lands, we can ensure ALL students have educational opportunities.

### HB 137 will provide funding for:

- Tribes and Pueblos across New Mexico to plan, design, renovate, expand, construct, equip, and furnish libraries.
- High-speed internet on Navajo and Jicarilla Apache Nation, as well as for the Santa Fe Indian School.
- Early childhood practicum at Navajo Technical University.
- Education Resource Centers for the Dzil Dit'l'looi School of Empowerment and Action and Perseverance Charter School.
- An Education Resource Center and Early Childhood Center at the Pueblo of Jemez.

**\* Appropriation: \$59.2 million through FY24**

