

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**H. C. R. No. 25**

**Representatives Miller, A., Miranda**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Howse, Weinstein, Smith, M., Smith, K., Lightbody,  
Ingram, Galonski, Jarrells, Robinson, Denson**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To encourage schools to retire the use of Native American 1  
sports mascots. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The United States of America holds the values of 3  
democracy, equality, and justice as fundamental cornerstones 4  
upon which to build society; and 5

WHEREAS, All people are interconnected as one human family 6  
and should be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of 7  
their racial and ethnic identity; and 8

WHEREAS, Ohio is the home of various cultural and racial 9  
groups, about 28,000 of them American Indians and Alaska 10  
Natives; and 11

WHEREAS, Ohio is the sacred ancestral home of the Wyandot, 12  
Ojibwe, Saponi, Catawba, Shawnee, Miami, Erie, Ottawa, 13  
Potawatomi, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy Native American 14  
tribes, each with a distinctive and rich heritage of cultures 15  
and traditions, and each with a sovereign government; and 16

WHEREAS, Native Americans are a vital part of Ohio's 17

history, its present, and its future; and 18

WHEREAS, All students, including Native American students, 19  
deserve a respectful and nurturing school environment that 20  
encourages positive educational, emotional, and social 21  
development; and 22

WHEREAS, All students have the right to receive an 23  
education free of discrimination and exploitation, and, 24  
according to the United States Department of Education Office 25  
for Civil Rights, racial harassment denies students their 26  
rights; and 27

WHEREAS, Native American names, imagery, symbols, regalia, 28  
and characterizations as school or team mascots symbolize a 29  
previous era where inaccurate portrayals of Native American 30  
stereotypes were constructed; and 31

WHEREAS, Such inaccurate portrayals and caricatures strip 32  
elements of Native American cultures of their sacred meaning and 33  
dignity; and 34

WHEREAS, Hundreds of tribal governments, organizations, and 35  
citizens have encouraged schools and other sports teams to 36  
retire Native American sports mascots for more than 50 years, 37  
and while many schools and athletic teams have stopped using 38  
Native American sports mascots, the tradition persists in some 39  
regions; and 40

WHEREAS, It is widely recognized and respected that images 41  
of other historically subordinated racial and ethnic minority 42  
groups are not used as sports mascots due to the obvious 43  
racially discriminating and dehumanizing implications; and 44

WHEREAS, Despite the rights of a sovereign Native American 45  
nation to determine how its identity and citizens are portrayed, 46  
Native American sports mascots were created without permission 47  
from Native Americans, and the names and imagery used in these 48

sports mascots are dehumanizing to Native Americans and 49  
perpetuate insulting stereotypes; and 50

WHEREAS, Because Native American sports mascots are among 51  
the few depictions of Native Americans in American culture, and 52  
because those depictions are often savage in nature, they send 53  
powerful and damaging messages to all students about the place 54  
of Native Americans in their school, community, state, and 55  
country, especially if students have little contact with Native 56  
Americans; and 57

WHEREAS, In 2005, the American Psychological Association 58  
called for schools and athletic organizations to immediately 59  
retire the use of Native American sports mascots because of the 60  
damaging effects these mascots have on the self-esteem and 61  
heritage of Native American youth and the misleading messages 62  
they send about all Native Americans; and 63

WHEREAS, There is a growing body of research about how 64  
using Native American sports mascots creates a school 65  
environment that is deeply harmful to Native American students' 66  
social and emotional health and development, and can potentially 67  
affect the high suicide rate of Native American youth and the 68  
high rate of violence against Native American peoples; and 69

WHEREAS, School leaders have an opportunity to thoughtfully 70  
engage with those who have been harmed by Native American sports 71  
mascots and create a process for removing and replacing those 72  
mascots; now therefore be it 73

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 74  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, hereby encourage the following: 75

-- Schools and athletic teams with Native American sports 76  
mascots, including names, imagery, symbols, regalia, and 77  
characterizations, to engage with Native American communities to 78  
create their own processes to retire these sports mascots out of 79

respect for the cultural and spiritual traditions and practices 80  
of their Native American neighbors; 81

-- Schools and athletic teams to collaborate with the State 82  
Board of Education, school district boards, interested parties, 83  
and government entities to procure resources and technical 84  
assistance necessary for retiring the use of Native American 85  
mascots; 86

-- All Ohio citizens, including non-Native American 87  
citizens, to learn about the histories and heritages of Native 88  
Americans, including the histories of indigenous peoples who 89  
live on and have lived on Ohio lands; and be it further 90

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 91  
send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the State 92  
Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, 93  
and the news media of Ohio. 94