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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY CHRISTENSEN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE STATE, AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE LEGISLATURE DISCOURAGES REMOVAL OF NAMES, IMAGES, OR SYMBOLS OF NATIVE AMERICANS FROM SCHOOLS OR OTHER PLACES.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho has a long history of positive contributions of Native Americans and American Indian tribes in the state; and

WHEREAS, there are schools or other places within the state that use names, images, or symbols of Native Americans or other indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, use of these names, images, or symbols can be authentic, appropriate, and accurate when used carefully with cultural sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, there are over 500 different tribes in the nation with varied cultures, histories, beliefs, languages, and dialects that should be accurately reflected when names, images, or symbols are used by schools or places in the state; and

WHEREAS, there are Native Americans who want to preserve positive names, images, or symbols that give tribute to American Indian culture; and

WHEREAS, a national Native American entity, the Native American Guardian's Association, represents the sentiment of the silenced majority of individual native peoples whose voices have been suppressed and ignored by activist forces; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Guardian's Association supports the appropriate use of Native American names, imagery, or symbols and promotes the phrase "educate not eradicate"; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by a 2019 survey of individual Native Americans, which complements a 2016 poll conducted by the Washington Post finding that 90% of Native Americans are not offended by the Redskins nickname, a significant number of individual Native Americans have no problem with or support the respectful use of Native American names and imagery in sports; and

WHEREAS, schools or others using names, images, or symbols of Native Americans or other indigenous people can be educated, including by local Native American tribes, on how to use these names, images, or symbols in inoffensive, culturally appropriate ways; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of Native Americans to the state should be acknowledged.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature supports the appropriate use of names, images, or symbols of Native Americans or other indigenous people by schools or other places.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature discourages removal of names, images, or symbols of Native Americans or other indigenous people by schools or other places unless, after a careful and effective public process, the appropriate government entity determines that there is a consensus among the affected individual Native American or other indigenous people that a name, image, or symbol should be removed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Native American Guardian's Association, the Association of Idaho Cities, and the Idaho Association of Counties for distribution to all their constituents, as well as to each school district and public college and university in the state.