

# STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

## 2024

**Source**

HJR 17

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**

30



Urging the United States Congress to pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

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### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**WHEREAS** a 2022 report from the United States Department of the Interior investigating Indian boarding schools found that the United States implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools across the nation from 1819 to 1969; and

**WHEREAS** there were over 100 Indian boarding schools in the state, which the United States Department of the Interior has yet to identify because of a lack of accessibility to primary source information; and

**WHEREAS** the purpose of federal Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children by forcibly removing the children from their families and American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and Native Hawaiian communities; and

**WHEREAS** American Indian child removal coincided with American Indian territorial dispossession; and

**WHEREAS** the conditions experienced by attendees included manual labor and

discouraging or preventing American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages, religions, and cultural beliefs; and

**WHEREAS** many children who attended federal Indian boarding schools endured physical and emotional abuse and, in some cases, died; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior has identified approximately 53 different schools across the school system with marked or unmarked burial sites; and

**WHEREAS** the federal Indian boarding school policies of past eras focused on assimilation and other harmful practices, and those policies caused harm for many; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior has laid the groundwork to address the intergenerational trauma created by policies supporting the federal Indian boarding school system and recognizes that the existence of these schools has implications reaching beyond intergenerational trauma; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution 23-14, which supports the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act; and

**WHEREAS** Resolution 23-14 also affirms the Alaska Native Heritage Center Lach'qu Sukdu Research Program as the central entity in the state researching and distributing information concerning Indian boarding schools in the state; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Congress reintroduced the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act as S. 1723, which seeks healing for stolen Native children and their communities;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature stands in full support of the passage of S. 1723, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, by committee, the Senate, and the House of Representatives and of the signing of the Act by the President of the United States.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Bryan Newland, United States Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.