

**JOINT RESOLUTION ADDRESSING USE OF NAMES,  
IMAGES, AND SYMBOLS OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND  
OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Rex P. Shipp**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature addresses the use of names, images, and symbols of Native Americans and other indigenous people.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ expresses support for the appropriate use of names, images, and symbols of Native Americans and other indigenous people by schools or places; and
- ▶ discourages removing names, images, and symbols of Native Americans and other indigenous people from schools or places.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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

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

WHEREAS, use of these names, images, or symbols can be authentic, appropriate, and



28 accurate when used carefully with cultural sensitivity;

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

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

34 WHEREAS, a national Native American entity, the Native American Guardian's  
35 Association, represents the sentiment of the silenced majority of individual Native peoples  
36 whose voices have been suppressed and ignored by activist forces and supports the appropriate  
37 use of Native American names, imagery, or symbols promoting the phrase "educate not  
38 eradicate";

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

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

47 WHEREAS, the contributions of Native Americans to the state should be  
48 acknowledged:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the state of Utah, that  
50 the Legislature supports the appropriate use of names, images, or symbols of Native Americans  
51 or other indigenous people by schools or other places.

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

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Native  
58 American Guardian's Association, the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah

59 Association of Counties for distribution to all their constituents, each school district in the  
60 state, and each institution within the State System of Higher Education listed in Section  
61 [53B-1-102](#).