

REGULAR CALENDAR

March 7, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on Education to which
was referred HB 1261,**

**AN ACT prohibiting the use of Native American mascots
in public schools, colleges, and universities. Having
considered the same, report the same with the following
resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO
LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Moffett

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1261
Title:	prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.
Date:	March 7, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The majority takes issue with the notion that the use of indigenous Native American Indian symbols by schools or sports teams is inherently disrespectful or derogatory. To the contrary, such symbolism was intended to honor various qualities and attributes of Native Americans. Indeed, many polls show significant support among Native Americans for continued associations with sports teams and educational institutions. Activists emotionalize and define the issue on their terms and even seek to ban such generic nicknames as "warriors" which are not even specific to Native Americans. Further, this should be a matter of local control. Schools or communities should have their own discussions on the issue of retaining or rejecting such symbols, as opposed to having the heavy hand of the state deployed to impose policies favored by activists who see no need for compromise.

Vote 10-9.

Rep. Michael Moffett
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Michael Moffett for the **Majority** of Education. The majority takes issue with the notion that the use of indigenous Native American Indian symbols by schools or sports teams is inherently disrespectful or derogatory. To the contrary, such symbolism was intended to honor various qualities and attributes of Native Americans. Indeed, many polls show significant support among Native Americans for continued associations with sports teams and educational institutions. Activists emotionalize and define the issue on their terms and even seek to ban such generic nicknames as "warriors" which are not even specific to Native Americans. Further, this should be a matter of local control. Schools or communities should have their own discussions on the issue of retaining or rejecting such symbols, as opposed to having the heavy hand of the state deployed to impose policies favored by activists who see no need for compromise. **Vote 10-9.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

March 7, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on Education to which
was referred HB 1261,**

**AN ACT prohibiting the use of Native American mascots
in public schools, colleges, and universities. Having
considered the same, and being unable to agree with
the Majority, report with the recommendation that the
bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Luneau

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1261
Title:	prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.
Date:	March 7, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill prohibits a public educational institution from using a Native American mascot, except under certain circumstances. The minority believes that use of Native American mascots should be prohibited in public high school and public intercollegiate sports. The use of offensive imagery and indigenous slurs was never a good idea and today we are well beyond the time to prohibit this reprehensible practice. The committee heard from members of New Hampshire's Indigenous People community as to the offensive nature of these mascots, monikers, and team names. Contrary to what the majority believes, this practice does not honor Native Americans, but instead invokes racism and is a blatant and shameful form of discrimination.

Rep. David Luneau
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

HB 1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Luneau for the **Minority** of Education. This bill prohibits a public educational institution from using a Native American mascot, except under certain circumstances. The minority believes that use of Native American mascots should be prohibited in public high school and public intercollegiate sports. The use of offensive imagery and indigenous slurs was never a good idea and today we are well beyond the time to prohibit this reprehensible practice. The committee heard from members of New Hampshire's Indigenous People community as to the offensive nature of these mascots, monikers, and team names. Contrary to what the majority believes, this practice does not honor Native Americans, but instead invokes racism and is a blatant and shameful form of discrimination.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1261

BILL TITLE: prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

DATE: March 7, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Boehm

Seconded by Rep. A. Lekas

Vote: 10-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # 1261

BILL TITLE: ...

DATE: 3/7/22

LOB ROOM:

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Boehm Seconded by Rep. LeGas Vote: 10-9

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
 Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: _____ YES NO

Minority Report? Yes _____ No If yes, author, Rep: LUNEAU Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: Bill Nelson
Rep. Melissa Litchfield, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Education

Bill #: 1261 Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3/7/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	10		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	1		
Litchfield, Melissa A. Clerk Lang, Tim	2		
Boehm, Ralph G.	3		
Lekas, Alicia D.	4		
Moffett, Michael Lascelles Rich	5		
Hobson, Deborah L.	6		
Ford, Oliver J.	7		
Soti, Julius F.	8		
Nelson, Bill G.	9		
Myler, Mel-Walz, Mary Beth Wellner, Mary Jane		3	
Luneau, David J.		1	
Cornell, Patricia		2	
Tanner, Linda L.		4	
Ellison, Arthur S.		5	
Mullen, Sue M.		6	
Woodcock, Stephen L. Murray, Megan		7	
Porter, Marjorie		8	
A. Hall, Muriel C.		9	
TOTAL VOTE:	10	9	

Lundquist (minority rec)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1261

BILL TITLE: prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

DATE: January 18, 2022

LOB ROOM: 207

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 10:10am

Time Adjourned: 11:03am

Committee Members: Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, Boehm, A. Lekas, Moffett, Hobson, Ford, Soti, B. Nelson, Litchfield, Myler, Luneau, Cornell, Tanner, Ellison, Mullen, Woodcock, Hall and Porter

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Cannon

Rep. Cushing

Rep. Vail

Rep. Tucker

Rep. Ellis

Rep. Bartlett

Sen. Kahn

Sen. Watters

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

*Rep. Gerri Cannon

- Prime sponsor
- Written testimony submitted

Rep. Boehm

- He agrees with this, but what about other ethics?

Rep. Porter

- How many schools in NH - use native American mascots? Response: 8

Rep. Ford

- Commentary

Rep. Moffett

- Educated regarding Dartmouth "Indians"
- Sports Illustrated poll: 80% of voters like how sports teams were honoring the Native Americans.

Rep. Horrigan

- White people came, and embarked on genocide
- Noted how once professional sports teams have changed names and changed helmets/hat, there win/loss records have gone up.

Rep. Lekas

- Her understanding that many native Americans (were) actually upset when the Cleveland Indians team name was changed to the Guardians.

*Mr. David Miller

- Supports bill
- A former legislator for 2 years.
- Spoke in depth of NH history, hundreds of years ago - in relation to native Americans.

*Frank Knaack

- ACLU of NH
- In support of bill

Davistu & Paul Pouliot

- Pennacook -Abenaki people
- In support of this bill

Rep. Lekas

- Isn't student petition a reasonable way to go about this?

Jonathan Weinberg

- Supports bill

Kristin Forselius

- Representing Community Church of NH
- Youth group wants mascots to represent their generation

Louise Spencer

- In support of bill
- Discussed the Dartmouth "Indians" symbol.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Melissa Litchfield, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB1261 on 2022-01-18

Support: 130 Oppose: 23 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Watters, Senator David	Dover, NH david.watters@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/5/2022 2:49 PM
purslow, stacey	Rochester, NH purs2@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/8/2022 10:37 AM
Piskovitz, Jennifer	Exeter, NH jennbrackett@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 6:49 PM
Crompton, Misty	New Boston, NH m.crompton.snhu@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 5:17 AM
Covert, Susan	Contoocook, NH scovert@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 4:56 PM
Stevens, Alice	Union, NH Awason3@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 5:30 PM
Culliton, Penny	Temple, NH pculliton@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 5:58 PM
Kidder, Steven	Concord, NH StevenLKidder@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 6:06 PM
Furey, Nathaniel	Nottingham, NH n.b.furey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:14 PM
Hilbert, Laura	Nottingham, NH l.m.hilbert@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:15 PM
Leswing, Katherine	Concord, NH katherine.leswing@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 9:55 PM
Painten, Elisa	DURHAM, NH epainten@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 8:15 AM
Williams, Lindsey	Dover, NH lindseyfordover@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 1:17 PM

Porter, Hunter	Nashua, NH porterhunter2005@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 4:48 PM
Senier, Siobhan	Epping, NH siobhansenier2020@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 6:21 PM
Coppola, Shawna	Madbury, NH shawnacoppola@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 6:28 PM
Robinson, Melissa	Dover, NH melissa_rauseo@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 8:53 PM
Bowden, William	Providence, RI brbowden21@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:17 PM
Preisser, Whitney	Somerville, MA volunteer_whitney@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:26 PM
DeRosa, Robin	Campton, NH Orbitractor@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 9:29 PM
Metcalf, Karen	Weare, NH kmet631@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/12/2022 11:44 PM
King, Jordan	Milford, NH Jordan.king@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 12:22 AM
Heath, The Rev. Heidi C.	Exeter, NH heidi@nhchurches.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 8:08 AM
Babladelis, Ashley	Concord, NH ash.hatch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 8:42 AM
DiNardo, Paula	Dover, NH paula.dinardo@unh.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 9:00 AM
Fay, Maura	Exeter, NH maurafay@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 2:01 PM
Wilkins, Reid	Bridgewater, NH xtremeskierdude88@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 2:32 PM
Corkery, Catherine	Concord, NH catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org	A Lobbyist	NH Sierra Club	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 6:17 PM
Leister, Blake	Manchester, NH blakeleister@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 9:13 PM
Zajano, Emily	Exeter, NH emzajano@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 9:19 PM
Cutting, Sarah Ellen	ALEXANDRIA, NH scutting@sau4.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2022 10:02 PM

Savage, Cheryl	Madbury, NH ce.murphy15@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 12:04 AM
Chapin, Laura	Dover, NH ociardha77@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 12:48 AM
Smith, Jennifer	Pembroke, NH jaycmd7699@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 9:51 AM
Shaffer, Lindsey	Deerfield, NH shafferlindsey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 9:53 AM
Dodier, Tiffany	Somersworth, NH tiffanydodier@gmail.com	A Lobbyist	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 9:53 AM
Doyle, Maria	Salem, NH visualize_joy@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 9:54 AM
Doenmez, Sarah	Dublin, NH doenmezsarah@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 10:31 AM
Hodgkins, Russell	Amherst, NH hodgkins_russ@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/14/2022 2:36 PM
Forselius, Kristin	Lee, NH kforselius@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2022 7:50 PM
Kusch, Scott Daniel	Center Sandwich, NH dan.kusch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 3:40 PM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 4:22 PM
Raspiller, Cindy	Mont Vernon, NH raspicl@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 4:39 PM
Brown, Howard	Mont Vernon, NH hobro39@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 4:40 PM
Aronson, Laura	Manchester, NH laura@mlans.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 6:00 PM
Dresser, Sarah	Hanover, NH dresser.sarah@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 6:18 PM
Brunelle, Leigh	Manchester, NH lbrunelle11@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 6:42 PM
Roy, Leo	Manchester, NH lbroy25@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2022 6:43 PM
Strott, Douglas	Henniker, NH dbsnnnnn@pm.me	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 8:26 AM

Warren, Michelle	West lebanon, NH Prof.michelle.r.warren@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 8:45 AM
Milewicz, Meredith	Birmingham, AL mlmilewicz@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 8:47 AM
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	Loudon, NH wmottsm@worldpath.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 9:22 AM
Reed, Barbara D.	North Swanzey, NH BDRreed74@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 9:38 AM
Sprague, Melissa	Goffstown, NH MAH.Sprague@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 10:22 AM
kirsch, walter	warner, NH kirschwalterf@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/16/2022 1:11 PM
Fenner-Lukaitis, Elizabeth	Warner, NH glukaitis@mcttelecom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2022 6:35 PM
Sullivan, Alexandra	Merrimack, NH Alexmarysullivan@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/16/2022 8:10 PM
Doherty, David	Pembroke, NH ddoherty0845@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 8:46 AM
Mackie, Danielle	Nashua, NH Daniellenuzzo70@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 9:17 AM
Schissel, Mary	Newport, NH schissell@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:39 AM
Bates, David	Warner, NH dbates3@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:44 AM
Dewey, Karen	NEWPORT, NH pkdewey@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 10:16 AM
Blanchard, Sandra	Loudon, NH sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 10:52 AM
Lindpaintner, Lyn	Concord, NH lynlin@bluewin.ch	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 11:08 AM
Baberadt, Jeanine	Manchester, NH jeanib333@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 11:29 AM
Smith, Julie	Nashua, NH Cantdog@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 11:50 AM
Weber, Jill	Mont Vernon, NH jill@frajilfarms.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 12:21 PM

Hayward, Marcia	Laconia, NH mjhayward131@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 1:02 PM
Whitaker, Frances	Manchester, NH fmwhitaker@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 1:06 PM
Reale, Alana	Stratham, NH alanareale@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 1:10 PM
Burr, Emily	Canterbury, NH revemilyburr@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 1:12 PM
Colquhoun, Laura	Nashua, NH lauracolquhoun2@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 2:16 PM
Hampton, Doris	Canterbury, NH dandmhamp38@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 2:38 PM
Emerson, Anne	Canterbury, NH ademerson4180@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 2:59 PM
Lynch, Chrisinda	Concord, NH cmmelynch@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 3:12 PM
Zimmer, Julie	Peterborough, NH juliecorkzim@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 3:30 PM
Kepich, Jenna	Manchester, NH jkepich@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 3:32 PM
Davidson, Suellen	Hollis, NH suellendavidson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 3:47 PM
OBrien, Joan	Amherst, NH joanlobrien@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 3:52 PM
Hatcher, Phil	Dover, NH phil.hatcher@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 3:55 PM
Montminy, Sandra	Portsmouth, NH S-l-robinson@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 4:05 PM
Smith, Maja	Canterbury, NH majahauck@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 4:09 PM
Yen, Lidia	Pembroke, NH lyen@afsc.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 4:35 PM
Smith, Sara	Pembroke, NH sara.rose.ssmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 4:46 PM
Koch, Helmut	Concord, NH helmut.koch.2001@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 4:49 PM

Castillo-Turgeon, Eva	Manchester, NH evita8@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 4:56 PM
Koch, Laurie	Concord, NH kochlj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 5:00 PM
Lynch, Christopher	Concord, NH cglynch7@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 5:03 PM
Smith, Ruth	Canterbury, NH ruthnaturally234@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 5:25 PM
Laker-Phelps, Gail	Chichester, NH lpsart@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 5:32 PM
Orkin, Susan	Grantham, NH susanorkin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 6:56 PM
Burlingame, Terry	Gilmanton Iron Works, NH mexicananh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 7:06 PM
Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 7:25 PM
Kilpatrick, Jessica	Concord, NH jessickilpatrick@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 7:44 PM
Garland, Ann	LEBANON, NH annhgarland@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 7:59 PM
Petrusewicz, Carol	Rochester, NH clmcc2befree@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 8:29 PM
Davidson, Stuart	Hollis, NH studavidso@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:14 PM
Rettew, Annie	Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:33 PM
Richman, Susan	Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:34 PM
Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:37 PM
perencevich, ruth	concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:40 PM
Damon, Claudia	Concord, NH cordsdamon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:41 PM
Vincent, Laura	Loudon, NH lvlauravincen5@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 9:55 PM

Houle, Autumn	Candia, NH autumnkatherinehoule@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2022 10:18 PM
Huang, William	Nashua, NH parodius@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 10:21 PM
Tavanyar, Yvonne	Nashua, NH ytavanyar@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 11:19 PM
Cembalisty, Clara	Rochester, NH Cqsc43@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 11:26 PM
Cembalisty, Richard	Rochester, NH taxmanrick@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/17/2022 11:27 PM
Clark, Denise	Milford, NH denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 12:04 AM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 12:51 AM
Woods, Renia	Bow, NH renia.woods1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 3:07 AM
Zaenglein, Barbara	Amherst, NH bzaenglein@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 6:03 AM
Zaenglein, Eric	Amherst, NH henley11@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 6:04 AM
Ellermann, Maureen	Concord, NH ellermannf@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 6:52 AM
Elhuni, Asma	Concord, NH Asmaelhuni@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 6:54 AM
Reardon, Donna	Concord, NH bugs42953@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:27 AM
Lewis, Elizabeth	Nashua, NH ecop.lewis@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:31 AM
Walsh, Lynne	Melvin Village, NH lynnwalsh14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:31 AM
Campbell, Leonard	Meredith, NH lsoup03@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:40 AM
Falk, Cheri	Wilton, NH falk.cj@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:46 AM
Campbell, Karen	Epsom, NH klyncampbell50@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:56 AM

Costello, Emilie	Pittsfield, NH Dark9moon@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 8:04 AM
Burnap, Linda	Wolfeboro, NH 54able@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 8:23 AM
Storrs, Caroline	Cornish, NH pcstorrs@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 8:25 AM
Kelley, BaoChau	Hooksett, NH chaukelley@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 8:26 AM
Hough, Gregg	Laconia, NH gregghough2020@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 8:31 AM
Bushueff, Catherine	Sunapee, NH agawamdesigns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 8:31 AM
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	Dover, NH coraq@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 8:45 AM
Greene, Bob	Hudson, NH Bob.Greene@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 8:47 AM
Judkins, Carter	Dover, NH judkinsc4@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:07 AM
Hinkel, Robert	Dover, NH r.hinkel@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:10 AM
Naylor, Claire	Peterborough, NH cnaylor714@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:11 AM
Howard, Raymond	Alton, NH brhowardjr@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 9:17 AM
Robertson, Elizabeth	Gilford, NH elizuhbethr@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:19 AM
Hodsdon, Alan	CANTERBURY, NH alan.hodsdon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:42 AM
King, Walter	Dover, NH genedocwk@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 9:46 AM
Fraysse, Michael	Epsom, NH mikefraysse@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 9:56 AM
Duderstadt, Katharine	Durham, NH duderstadt@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:02 AM
Loveless, Eric	Bedford, NH Lovelessej@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 10:06 AM

Chester, Russan	Bedford, NH Russan.chester@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 10:07 AM
Cecchetti, Lynda	Strafford, NH lcecc92017@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:10 AM
Robertson, Doug	Keene, NH thereddouglass1988@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:11 AM
Bowles, Margaret	Lyme, NH mcb2885@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:15 AM
Keeler, margaret	New London, NH peg5keeler@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 10:43 AM
Ketteler, Claire	Newbury, NH cketteler@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 12:32 PM
Thomas, William	Auburn, NH nhvfp@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 1:41 PM
Strakalaitis, Judy	Derry, NH judystrakalaitis@derrynh.org	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 1:57 PM
Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 3:05 PM
Fisher, Mark	Dover, NH markfisher3340@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 3:29 PM
Cantwell, Kara	NASHUA, NH kara.cantwell8@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/18/2022 4:03 PM
Gould, Matthew	Litchfield, NH mgould3090@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 7:28 PM
Tillman, Gregory	Epping, NH Gregtillman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 8:57 PM
Dubois, Jillian	Concord, NH jillianadubois@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2022 11:07 PM

Archived: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 10:21:12 AM

From: [leslie woodard](#)

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:05:58 PM

To: ~House Education Committee

Subject: HB1261 Testimony

Importance: Normal

Dear House Education Committee:

My name is Leslie Woodard and I live in Londonderry. I support the passage of HB1261 and encourage the committee to pass it. I believe the use of Native mascots is extremely disrespectful to people of native ancestry and that it is way past time to discontinue the use of school Native mascots.

Thank-you for reading my testimony and I hope you will vote in my favor.

Sincerely,
Leslie Woodard
Sent from my iPhone

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: [Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 11:26:41 AM
To: ~[House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Belated testimony on HB1261
Importance: Normal

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for receiving my testimony.

I write today in strong support of HB1261 prohibiting the use of Native American Mascots at our public schools, colleges, and universities. As a consortium of Christian congregations and denominations here in NH, we continue to work to own our historical role in the genocide and persecution of Indigenous people here in NH, and beyond. This bill takes a small step to make our state a little more whole, a little more equitable, and a little more just for each of us. The New Hampshire Council of Churches is proud to support it.

It has been almost 20 years since the State Board of Education has endorsed a ban on Native American mascots in our public schools. It is past time for the state to say once and for all that we will no longer continue to participate in racist and violent caricatures of our indigenous neighbors and friends. This is an easy, and sweeping step that would demonstrate a commitment to an ethic of care for the indigenous populations of NH.

We often speak of indigenous people in a historical sense. "People who once lived here" or "people to whom the land belonged." In reality, indigenous people are a rich and important part of the contemporary fabric of NH. They are often rendered invisible in how we speak about their lives and legacies. Acutely so when we allow sports teams, and public institutions to portray them as mascots. This bill would be a small step toward correcting that invisibility.

For these reasons and many more, New Hampshire Council of Churches encourages you to vote yes on this bill. This is a strong step toward ensuring each citizen of NH is appropriately valued. Thank you for your time.

Warmly,

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

--

Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Executive Director
New Hampshire Council of Churches
PO Box 1087
Concord, NH 03302
Phone (call or text): (603) 460-5447
Website: www.nhchurches.org
Email: heidi@nhchurches.org

I am consistently in the office Tuesday-Thursday. If your email, or message falls outside those working hours, there may be a delay in my response. It is not atypical for me to take more than 24 hours to respond to email. My working hours and your working hours may not coincide. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal working hours. I encourage your sabbath practice.

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: Leonard Campbell
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:48:51 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: I Support HB1261
Importance: Normal

Hon. House Members:

HB1261 is quite clear in its intent and reasoning for prohibiting the use of Native American mascots.

In a “cancel culture” atmosphere, this is a bill that protects the human dignity of a culture.

Reducing a culture to caricatures dehumanizes the people and puts them into the limelight of denigration and degradation.

The Jews in Germany before World War 2 are a prime example.

Please support this legislation.

Respectfully

Len

Leonard Campbell
Meredith, NH
603-455-1105

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: [Valerie Martin](#)
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 9:52:57 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Tuesday 1.18 Proposed Bills
Importance: Normal

Hello as a Nashua Resident and with kids in the public school system I **Support HB1627** and **HB1367**.

I **Oppose HB1261** and **HB1263**

Thank you,
Valerie

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: [Ann Marie Banfield](#)
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 6:27:41 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: HB1261 Testimony
Importance: Normal

Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Ann Marie Banfield and I am a parental rights advocate in New Hampshire focused on academic excellence in education. I am unable to appear in person but would like to submit testimony on HB 1261. HB1261 would prohibit the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities. I would like to share some important information with you, so that you can better understand differing views on this subject.

Based on what I've seen, I have to object to HB1261 and urge you to vote ITL.

Unless you know exactly what they want as a cultural group, I don't think it's wise to proceed. It appears as if many Native Americans are actually fine with the mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

That was documented in this article by [ESPN's Paul Lucas](#). Lucas does acknowledge that some people do support the removal of their imagery in sports, but he also took the time to gather views from the Native Americans in central Michigan. He then reported that: "*In central Michigan, for example, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe recently announced that it had [no problem](#) with a local high school whose teams are called the Warriors.*"

He then contacted "*the Saginaw Chippewas and spoke with their public relations director, [Frank Cloutier](#).*" Here is some of the interview:

Many of the people taking part in this debate see it as a black-and-white issue. Either they're completely opposed to all uses of Native American imagery, or they have no problem with any of it. What's your position, or your tribe's position, on that?

It's very, very clear for us, because we've worked with so many institutions in our area. Our position is that if it's not derogatory and it's being used appropriately, with an opportunity to share or cross-share our culture, then it's fine. There's nothing derogatory about "Warriors" or "Braves." There's nothing derogatory about "Indian." But terms like "Redskin" or "Half-Breed," those are derogatory terms to us.

So when the Michigan Department of Civil Rights recently filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, claiming that **Native American mascots and nicknames are inherently harmful to Native children, you don't agree with that?**

In the study they used, they said these Native children who go to these schools with these mascots are "marginalized." But if you look at generational trauma and the way Native peoples were treated 300 years ago, it wasn't until 1924 that we were formally recognized as human beings, and we didn't get the chance to vote until after women did. That's what makes these kids feel marginalized -- the way their culture and their people were treated. I don't believe that a menacing-looking brave on the backboard of a basketball hoop is going to marginalize that child as much as that generational trauma.

That said, however, I believe that these schools using these images have an obligation to talk about the truth of Native American history. One of the largest genocides in world history happened right here on American soil, and it happened to Native Americans. So it's important to talk about the true history about the settling of the United States, and to talk about those things that happened to Native Americans that are often not talked about.

If Native children are struggling, hopefully this kind of education and outreach and help identify why, instead of having us blame it on a mascot.

HB1261 is also an unfunded mandate since each school district would have to change uniforms and other materials that depict their mascot. If a school district, college or university has the funds, and believe this is the right thing to do based on what the community has expressed, they can certainly do that on their own.

I have not seen any big push from any Native American community for this change in New Hampshire. For those reasons, I urge you to vote ITL on HB1261.

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: [Sara Smith](#)
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:47:33 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: I support the bill to ban Native American mascots and symbols
Importance: Normal

Dear Education committee member,

I support the bill HB1261 prohibiting the use of images, etc of Native American people as mascot in schools and sports teams(really everywhere). For one thing, it is dehumanizing to be a mascot to a team. It is a human life reduced to negative stereotype and teaches children to make fun of other human beings. It promotes bullying and name calling. Picture a stadium full of people booing your ancestors and cultural heritage. This is not an acceptable thing to do or to teach children to do. It promotes negative stereotypes, reducing human beings to something subhuman. It is too painful to even repeat these, as I am sure you are aware of them anyway. Removing these mascots is one step in repairing the harm that was done by our European ancestors. Allowing them to remain perpetuates the harm into the next generation. I was a teacher for over 25 years and know how easily children absorb information, good and bad. Let us fill them with loving kind information, not bullying derogatory information.

Sara Smith
386 Pembroke St.
Pembroke NH

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: Doris and Mark Hampton
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 2:46:31 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB1261
Importance: Normal

Dear House Education Committee,

I strongly support the bill to eliminate the use of Native American mascots from our public schools.

With all the talk about education, it would seem this is a simple one. Let's make sure what we teach is accurate. Not all, not most, Indians were or are "Red Raiders" which is what is conveyed at Belmont High School which our children attended.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Doris Hampton,
Canterbury

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: Fawn Gaudet
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 12:06:07 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB1261 Native Mascot Bill.
Importance: Normal

Dear Honorable House Education Committee members,

I am Fawn Gaudet a resident of Rumney, NH and I am a descendant of the Blackfeet Nation. I support HB 1261 an act prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges and universities. But I would like an amendment to take out the language in the analysis where it says: except under certain circumstances.

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #TUL-13-050 offers clear explanation as to why Native American mascots are harmful to Indigenous students and it is true for Indigenous students in NH. Here is a quote from this resolution: "Native sports stereotypes, to change their team names. Logos, mascots and behaviors to those that do not violate the human or civil rights of Native People's or of any students". Another quote from NCAI shares: " in studies by Dr. Stephanie Fryberg and her colleagues, American Indian and Alaska Native school and college students had a consistent, negative reaction to stereotypical mascots, such as Chief Wahoo of the Cleveland Indians, because these images remind Native American youth of the limited ways in which others see them, which in turn restricts how they see themselves;"

in NH we have a chance to right these wrongs and honor all our Indigenous students and peoples. Including the Cowasuck Band of the Penacook Abenaki People who are original inhabitants of NH. Please do so by prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges and universities.

you,
2872

Fawn Gaudet.

Thank
603-960-

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: MAJA SMITH
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:10:10 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: Please support HB1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities
Importance: Normal
Digitally Signed: Yes

Dear Representatives,

Please support HB1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

In 2005, the American Psychological Association (APA) called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations. APA's position is based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, including the particularly harmful effects of American Indian sports mascots on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people.

Research has shown that the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities has a negative effect on not only American Indian students but all students by

- Undermining the educational experiences of members of all communities-especially those who have had little or no contact with indigenous peoples,
- Establishing an unwelcome and often times hostile learning environment for American Indian students that affirms negative images/stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society,
- Undermining the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality and traditions, and
- Presenting stereotypical images of American Indians.


The APA says the use of such mascots “is a form of discrimination against American Indian Nations that can lead to negative relations between groups.”

"The use of American Indian mascots as symbols in schools and university athletic programs is particularly troubling because schools are places of learning. These mascots are teaching stereotypical, misleading and too often, insulting images of American Indians. These negative lessons are not just affecting American Indian students; they are sending the wrong message to all students."

- Former APA President Ronald F. Levant, EdD

Best wishes,

Maja Smith
Canterbury, NH

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:58 AM
From: [Hunter Porter](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 7:44:44 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: New Hampshire High School Democrats Support HB 1261
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[Letter Re_ HB1261.pdf](#) 

Dear Chairman Ladd and Members of the Committee,

Attached you will find a letter of support from the New Hampshire High School Democrats regarding HB 1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Regards,

--

Hunter Porter (he/him)
Legislative Director
New Hampshire High School Democrats
(603) 718-2821

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:59 AM
From: Rhonda Besaw
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:00:23 AM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB1261 regarding the use of Native American People as mascots
Importance: Normal

Dear State of New Hampshire Legislators:

It is the official position of the Abenaki Nation of New Hampshire that no sports team of any sort should have a Native American/American Indian mascot. This includes such mascots as Savages, Warriors, Raiders, etc. where the name is not specifically American Indian but the imagery is clearly Native American. We believe there is no compromise on this position.

Many people, coalitions and groups speak to the damage done to our Native youth which has been proven, by extensive research, to contribute to low self-esteem, teenage suicide, substance abuse, school dropouts, all at dramatically higher rates than mainstream society.

However, there is a more subtle impact on non-Indian students and school staff resulting from Native American mascots that are just as negative. Students learn only stereotypes (such as imagery of a northern plains tribe). It is commonplace for Indians to hear "I thought you were all dead." The imagery locks Native people into the 18th and 19th centuries when there are 21st century Indians all around your school district.

Stereotypes of Native Americans bombard our lives every day, from Calumet Baking Soda, to Jeep Cherokee, to movies, TV shows, commercials and Native American mascots. Words like scalped, off the reservation, let's pow wow, or Indian giver, are thoughtlessly included in conversations without realizing. The word squaw is a disgusting, degrading word that virtually every Indian woman finds deeply offensive. Yet in California, squaw bread can be found in any grocery store.

Everywhere, in our daily lives, we are subjected to these reminders of what happened to us historically, and still occurs today. They also paint a very inaccurate and insulting picture of whom we were and who we are. Yet non-Indians fail to comprehend this constant exposure and the damage it does. These false images become reality in the impressionable minds of students. They are not grounded in the Native American experience and treatment for the last 500 years, from slavery, to government eradication plans, to boarding school to the continued seizure of tribal lands today.

Native mascots also invite inappropriate behavior on the part of the student body as well as the sports opponents. Some examples include:

- 1) Red face. We believe your school would never allow dressing up as African American with black face paint. Dressing as an Indian is no different. It's wrong.
- 2) Wearing feathers, headdresses, face paint, without any understanding of our history and culture ridicules our people and shows a complete disregard for America's original peoples. It is akin to using Jesus as a prop for a football game.
- 3) Signs, cheers and banners invite misrepresentation of history, or worse, reflect the ugliest parts of history, such as massacres, scalping, removal and attempted eradication.

Perhaps these things are not tolerated at your school, but you have no control over how your opponents behave. As stated, the mascot alone provokes and invites insensitive and even racist behavior. Maybe you don't have any Native American students or staff. However, it is very possible, even likely that your opponents do. How would such a student react to the imagery, atmosphere and disrespect for his or her race in a place of learning?

Finally, unlike other mascots, "Indian" is a race. There are 567 federally recognized Indian tribes, bands, nations, pueblos, rancherias, communities and Native villages in the United States. Many other tribes and bands are state-recognized, or choose not to seek government recognition at all. Tribes are ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse. To use Indian as a mascot is the same as African American or Caucasian. "Indian" doesn't account for the many nations that still are recognized by federal nation to nation treaties. Your school may be located on the original homeland of the Abenaki. They were quite different from the Cherokee, Lakota, Kiowa, Seminole, Pechanga, Yurok, or even the nearby Mohawks or Mohegans in every way except race.

There are many other aspects to this matter but this letter serves to inform you of our official stance and a few of the reasons why.

Again, our position is intended to prepare all students, Native or not, to graduate and make their future in a rich and diverse society, where sensitivity and understanding are required. Because you are educators, we believe that is your intention as well. So we ask you to take the same stand as we do and retire all Native American themed mascots.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

With Respect,

Rhonda Besaw
Speaker
Abenaki Nation of New Hampshire
262 Lancaster Road
Whitefield, NH 03598

AbenakiNationofNH@gmail.com

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:02:59 AM

From: [ann podlipny](#)

Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2022 1:13:50 PM

To: [~House Education Committee](#)

Subject: HB1261

Importance: Normal

Dear Committee Members, I am in full support of HB1261, banning the use of Native American mascots in schools. Rep. Ford knows me well and understands that I am a member of the Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective, a group of both Indigenous and other allies seeking to further the cause of accurate historical and cultural representation of our Native community here in NH. Rep. Ford and I agree on the need to present the truth versus stereotypes regarding Indigenous history. Clearly, mascots are disgraceful distortions and do great disservice to the integrity of our local tribes. Please vote to approve HB1261. Thank you.

Ann Podlipny, Chester

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:05:18 AM
From: [Carisa Corrow](#)
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 8:45:42 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Violating HB 2: Mascots depicting caricatures of Native Americans
Importance: Normal

Good Evening,

I hope you had a good long weekend and were able to attend a MLK Jr. event today. I'm writing to ask you to advance HB 1261 prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Based on the passing of last year's budget with specific language about non-discrimination in schools, it makes sense that this is an OTP bill so our legislation is aligned. Native American mascots that use derogatory images and languages such as Belmont's Red Raider, is discriminatory against all Indigenous students who attend these schools. It also teaches non-Indigenous students to be prejudiced against Native Americans.

Thank you,
Carisa Corrow
Penacook, NH

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:05:19 AM
From: Ruth Smith
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 6:07:27 PM
To: ~House Education Committee
Subject: HB 1261
Importance: Normal

Hello Members of the House Education Committee,
I'm writing to share my support of House Bill 1261, to ban the use of Native American mascots from public schools. Though I am a supporter of local control and generally feel that excessive government overreach is not appropriate when it comes to school operation that does not impact the education of our state's children. However, I believe that this bill does impact the education of our students.

Mascots such as Red Raiders, Red Skins, Fighting Indians and many others that use derogatory names or names that are completely out of context such as Chiefs or Indians can add to the misinformation that non-native students receive and also continue to perpetuate negative stereotypes as they relate to Native American students. Contrary to popular belief, we DO have Native American children in our NH schools. I have quite a few Native friends and acquaintances who are NH residents and find Native mascot names completely inappropriate.

Organizations across the nation are calling for the cessation of Native American mascots and many are heeding the call, including Little League International. Some school districts are already having conversations about changing mascot names to be less offensive. Unfortunately, not all communities are making "the right decision". I call this the right decision because of the increased acknowledgement of the contribution of various groups such as Native Americans, African Americans and other minority groups to the richness, diversity and success of our nation. As part of that awareness, it's important to make changes in some of our past practices which were once thought to be acceptable.

Education is about learning and growing. With more knowledge, informed decisions can be made. It's time to make a decision based on education, not tradition.

For more information about this effort, I encourage you all to review the information at this website from the National Congress of American Indians <https://www.ncai.org/proudtobe>

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Ruth Smith
Canterbury NH

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:05:19 AM

From: [Sandra Robinson](#)

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:16:43 PM

To: ~[House Education Committee](#); [Michael Moffett](#)

Subject: Support 1261 and get rid of racist mascots once and for all!

Importance: Normal

House Education Committee,

I am writing as a New Hampshire resident to voice my support of HB 1261 prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities. I'm honestly shocked and disgusted that I need to do this in the year 2022, but since it apparently does not go without saying...

Using a racial or ethnic group as a mascot is racist.

Using stereotypes to portray an entire group of People is racist.

Using derogatory terminology or racial slurs (ie: Red or Redskins) is racist.

Please do the right thing and end the use of racist school mascots in NH once and for all by supporting HB 1261.

Thank you for your time and all the wonderful work you do!

Sandra Montminy

Sent from my iPhone

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:05:19 AM

From: Julie Zimmer

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 3:51:59 PM

To: ~House Education Committee

Subject: In support of HB 1261

Importance: Normal

Education Committee Members,

Please support the prohibition of Native American mascots in our schools. Sentimental attachments to “the name we used when I was on the team” do not outweigh the negative impact of stereotypes appropriating cultures from our Abenaki people, who support this bill.

I don't want my granddaughters to grow up with the same lack of awareness I did, in my all-white Iowa hometown where the teams were “Cherokee Braves” and “Bravettes”, going out into the world (with no sensitivity to the implications of a label they don't even own) just because my generation waxed nostalgic about our high school athletic endeavors under that banner.

When people argue that they know a Native American who doesn't care about this issue, please remember this bill is supported by the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People and According to Wikipedia, “The NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) and over 1,500 national Native organizations and advocates have called for a ban on all Native imagery, names, and other appropriation of Native culture in sports.

Thank you,
Julie Zimmer
25 Vine St
Peterborough
03458

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:05:19 AM

From: Daniel Richardson

Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 8:27:31 AM

To: ~House Education Committee

Cc: Tom Lanzara

Subject: In Opposition to HB 1261 prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Importance: Normal

Ref: Jan 18, 2022 Committee Meeting

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE -

I write in opposition to HB 1261. This bill is an unjustified call to dishonor our Native American people by extinguishing the honor our state extends to them by having named our most prized institutions after their heritage. Indeed, our very rivers and cities across our country have thusly honored them. My very childhood home displayed many respectful paintings of noble native warriors and iconic chiefs.

This bill has nothing to do with civil rights or righting a wrong. This bill is all about driving in another divisive wedge to cause hatred by inventing an issue from thin air by fantasizing about being causative of "unsafe learning environment" which has not existed for all time heretofore. The sponsors would be hard pressed to find a single tribal "victim" within NH crying out for a "naming offense". A preponderance of Native Americans are, in fact, not pure culturally or ethnically, but have become integrated into the American mesh.

This bill is unproductive and provides no improvement to floundering public education attendance, student behavior, curriculum corruption, educator career experience, and so forth.

Please reject the HB 1261 baseless premise and find it ITL.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:05:19 AM
From: [Carrie Draws](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:25:26 PM
To: [~House Education Committee](#)
Subject: Support for HB 1261
Importance: Normal

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for HB 1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

As a college educator and citizen of New Hampshire, I believe that it is of paramount importance that we instill our future generations with the values of decency, equity, and respect that is long overdue to our indigenous population within the state and elsewhere.

As a constituent I request that you carry out the will of the people on this matter, and thank you sincerely for your important role in enacting this just and equitable policy change.

Best regards,
Carolyn Arcabascio

Laconia, NH
603.426.4162



Date

Chairman Rick Ladd
NH House Committee on Education, LOB Room 207
33 N. State St.
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1261

Dear Chairman Ladd and Members of the Committee,

The New Hampshire High School Democrats affirm our support for HB 1261, prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities. We ask that you recommend H.B. 1261 "Ought to Pass."

Native American mascots contribute to negative stereotypes towards Indigenous people. While proponents of these mascots claim that they honor Indigenous figures, this is simply not the case. The mascots instead portray the image of Native Americans as "savages," which is disgraceful and factually incorrect.

Removing Native American mascots in schools is on par with decisions made in many other states in recognition of the tribulations and history of treatment of Native Americans in the United States. More broadly, sports teams such as the Washington Redskins and Cleveland Indians recently changed their names to a culturally sensitive and appropriate name. These changes mark a cultural shift in recognizing the mistreatment and mischaracterization of Indigenous peoples.

Although an incremental step, H.B. 1261 is a crucial bill that would help make educational institutions more equitable and welcoming to all students. The New Hampshire High School Democrats strongly urge you to recommend "Ought to Pass."

Respectfully,

Hunter Porter
Legislative Director
New Hampshire High School Democrats



January 18, 2022

Chair Ladd
NH House Committee on Education
NH State House
Concord, NH

RE: HB1261

Dear Chair Ladd and Honorable Members,

I am the Chapter Director of the NH Chapter of the Sierra Club. NH Sierra Club (NHSC) is an environmental group whose goal is to protect the environment and all the things on it. NHSC represents over 20,000 members and supporters in New Hampshire.

During the pandemic of COVID-19, NHSC has supported the use of virtual participation in the legislature, including watching hearings and committee meetings, testifying, signing in and other engagement with technology, for our members, supporters, interns, and employees. There was record attendance by Granite Staters in the public hearings. You can understand our disappointment that the 2022 calendar year has not allowed virtual testimony and requires in-person testimony only. While the remote sign-in and emailing testimony remains, I cannot, in good conscience, ask our engaged volunteers to attend hearings or meetings because of the reckless disregard for appropriate health safeguards. I encourage this committee and others to adopt increased protections appropriate for the extreme health risk of the pandemic for public engagement as is the right of all citizens.

The Chapter supports the passage of HB1261, to remove indigenous mascots.

The use of indigenous mascots is harmful to the humanity of indigenous members of our communities. We have heard from Native American community members time and again that the imagery and actions in the sport arena promote bullying, racial stereotypes and long-term psychological harm. The NH Sierra Club trusts them and advocate with them to end the use of harmful mascots.

For the committee's benefit I would like to share the National Congress of Native Indians' campaign called "Proud To Be" that advocates for the dissolution of native mascots for public and private institutions. There are many resources on their website

The Sierra Club's members are over 2.1 million of your friends and neighbors with over 20,000 in New Hampshire. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

New Hampshire Sierra Club 40 North Main Street, Second Floor Concord, NH 03301
603/224-8222 FAX: 603/224-4719

www.sierraclub.org

www.sierraclub.org/new-hampshire

that the committee may find useful. This is the page about the Proud To Be Campaign, <https://www.ncai.org/proudtobe>.

Additionally, there is a short film called Imagining the Indian, <https://imaginingtheindianfilm.org/>, that discusses mascots too. I hope that the committee will view these resources.

Therefore, in an effort to recognize, repair, and heal the wounds of the past, NHSC supports ending the use of mascots in schools. Any measure less than that is unacceptable and I ask the committee to support passage of HB1261 as introduced.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine M. Corkery

Chapter Director
NH Sierra Club
40 North Main Street, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301



Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook - Abenaki People
COWASS North America, Inc.
The Abenaki Nation of Vermont, Inc.
P.O. Box 52
Alton, NH 03809-0052



14 January 2022

Subject: Support for HB-1261 - Prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Honorable House Education Committee Members:

We the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook - Abenaki People and our leaders are headquartered in Alton, New Hampshire. We are in strong support and passage of HB-1261.

Maintaining Indigenous Mascots in schools is in direct violation of RSA 193-40 (Discrimination in Public Schools) that Governor Sununu signed into law June 2021. How can the state of NH put forth a discrimination law yet continue to allow the use of Indigenous mascots, images, logos, symbols and ceremonies in schools?

Passage of HB-1261 will remedy this issue by codifying the NH Board of Education, memorandum titled, "New Hampshire Board of Education endorses the elimination of the use of Indian mascots" dated August, 21, 2002 (see attached documents). This memorandum was developed in response to stop racism and the abuse of Native peoples through the misuse of Indigenous Names, Mascots, Logos, Symbols, Ceremonies, Clothing and other symbolic insults to our People and the greater Indigenous community.

Why are mascots a problem? No other people of any specific nationality, race, religion, or culture is being used to portray a "war like" image that is supposed "to honor" us. Indigenous slurs and monikers such as: Red Men, Red Skins, Sachems, Chiefs, Red Raiders, are just a few of the insulting names used. All of these terms are offensive on many levels of cultural and racial insensitivity. Likewise, any image of violence that shows: a menacing war-painted face; a misappropriated feathered war bonnet; a bloody tomahawk/knife or arrows/spears; and, many other such images of violence are blatantly offensive, and considered to be racist to the majority of Indigenous Peoples.

As a Tribe representing our people, we can only tell you that we are offended by the continued misappropriated and the abusive use of Indigenous Culture and People. If you really want to honor us you will need to acknowledge, respect and include us and our history as a living People. You do not have to forget your past mascot but put it in a place like your local historical society as an educational tool on ways to become a more inclusive and respectful community.

For additional information and details please review the attached documents.

Please support HB-1261 and health communities by banning the use of Indigenous Mascots in New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

Paul W. Pouliot, Sag8mo and Tribal Historical Preservation Officer (THPO)
Grand Council of Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People

Denise K. Pouliot, Sag8moskwa (Head Female Speaker)
Grand Council of Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People



Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook - Abenaki People
COWASS North America, Inc.
The Abenaki Nation of Vermont, Inc.
P.O. Box 52
Alton, NH 03809-0052
(603) 776-1090



Indigenous Mascot Narrative and Historical Background

Mascot use is an inherited reality that has been difficult to change. Change has to originate as a “grass-roots” movement from within your community through education about the negative impact of mascot use, and how offensive personal and communal conduct evokes racism. If this fails then a broader resolution is only possible by legislative action.

Why are mascots a problem? No other people of any specific nationality, race, skin color, religion, or culture is being used to portray a “war like” image that is supposed “to honor people” while also promoting and financially benefiting a business or organization.

The first matter of Indigenous community concern is the misuse of the term “Indian.” Early misguided explorers mistakenly called us “Indians” but society has used terms such as Savage, Red Man, Indian, American Indian, Native American, Native American Indian, Aboriginal, First Nation’s Person, and many more racially derived terms. The universal international term has evolved to be an “Indigenous” person, but we call ourselves Aln8bak, or “Human Beings.”

It is believed that the beginning of the misuse and cultural misappropriation of the Indigenous culture, images and identity started the mascot movement in the 1700’s following the “Boston Tea Party” event. These protestors were dressed as “Indians” to make it appear that the event was conducted by a raiding party.

In honor of those that started the American Revolution, a fraternal group was created called the Society of Red Man, which later became the Improved Order of the Red Man (IORM). As the years went on many IORM “tribes” were formed all over New England and the United States. Today, the IORM still exists and is headquartered in Texas. In New England there were many of these groups covering most larger towns. Most of these “tribes” disbanded by the 1930’s, but one sect was re-established in New Hampshire in 2018.

Later, other similar Indian hobbyists, French and Indian War reenactor groups, including the Boy Scouts also started to misappropriate the Indigenous culture. In most cases it was stated that they were honoring the ways of the “savage and noble Indian warrior.” By the 1950’s the United States was covered with various sports teams and organizations, including “inter-tribal” hobbyist groups that claimed to “honor us” using various names, mascots, logos, symbols, dress, and ceremonies; both real and fictional.

The original people of these lands, have historically been killed for our lands, resources, way of life, culture, and religious beliefs. Historically, Indigenous people have never had a voice in the laws or politics that impact them in this country. For example; In 1870 African slaves were given citizenship, the Indigenous community needed to wait another 54 years until 1924 before being granted that citizenship status. Full civil rights were not granted until 1968 and Indigenous people have only had religious freedom since 1978.

Additionally, the American Indigenous population is the only race that has to prove their ancestry to the beginning of recorded time in order to exist. As a result, the Indigenous population is now a very small minority of less than 2% within the total population of the United States.

Terms such as: Red Men, Savages, Red Skins, Sachems, Chiefs, Red Raiders, Braves, Red Warriors are just a few of the insulting terms that are being applied to our Indigenous community. We consider all of these terms to be offensive and demeaning on numerous levels. Likewise, any image that shows an angry, menacing scarred or war-painted face; a misused war bonnet or head dress; a tomahawk, knife or arrow; and many other such images are blatantly misappropriated, are offensive or violent weapons and do not represent Indigenous People.

During many school sporting events, team mascots are dressed in “Indian” costumes that are inappropriate and represent the misappropriation of the Indigenous culture. These caricatures often engage the spectators in symbolic actions such as the infamous and violent “Tomahawk Chop.” Furthermore, sports team cheer leaders are often dressed in skimpy faux indigenous attire to sexualize our women which fuels the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People pandemic that has spread across this nation and Canada.

Why does anyone refuse requests to remove Indigenous names and logos? This issue seems to always go back to previous generations that resist any change that would imply that they were wrong in the past. Towns and communities that continue to use and support mascots are in denial about their ongoing institutionally racist behavior. Some towns and communities claim that their constituents demand that no change should be made by making commonly used statements such as: “no Indians live here;” or “get over it- this is the team name/logo that previous generations have always known;” and, “change costs money - money better spent in other ways.” Or to the other extreme, they will make statements about getting an “Indian” group’s support for using these names, mascots, and logos or proclaim denial of any transgression. Often, they state that “no Indian” in town has come forward to object or, that “years ago a chief told us that is was ok.”

When further investigated, these types of claims of tacit approval by “an Indian” have been refuted or found to be misrepresented. A self-declared “local Indian” or “chief” does not meet the standard to represent an actual tribal organization or community. It should be also noted that any “Indian inter-tribal” or Indian special interest / support organization does not represent the actual Indigenous community that is the subject of the offensive stereotype.

When it is stated that no “Indian” has shown up at the town meetings to voice opposition against the continued use of Indigenous names, mascots, or logos - what do you expect? For generations Indigenous people were hunted as inferior sub-humans. The government took Indigenous children and put them in Indian schools “to take the Indian out of them.” Indigenous People were told to keep our mouths shut to survive, that many of your colonial ancestors “killed us all off, and the overwhelming weight of history” has eliminated our rights as a distinct People. In other words, we lost the war against colonialism - so get over it. The victor writes the history of the oppressed to protect their own future. Yet, we are still here and still praying to be treated as human beings.

New Hampshire Board of Education endorses the elimination of the use of Indian mascots

August 21, 2002

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire State Board of Education is aware that various Native American organizations, state and local officials, and private citizens, find the use of Native American mascots and symbols within our public schools to be offensive; and

WHEREAS, the use of Native American symbols as mascots, logos and sport team nicknames have, in the opinion of the Board, a detrimental affect on the achievement, education, self-concept, and self-esteem of American Indian students and sends an improper message to everyone of the true meaning and spirit of being of American Indian heritage; and

WHEREAS, several schools in New Hampshire continue to have Indian sports mascots; and

WHEREAS, all heritages, cultures, races, and religion have the right to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, it is important to be culturally sensitive and to educate everyone working within the New Hampshire School Education System, that no matter how well meaning their intentions, that their actions may be offensive and harmful to some and therefore, need to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association, the Society of Indian Psychologists and the US Commission of Civil Rights, have all endorsed the elimination of the use of Indian sports mascots; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes this is a matter that is, and rightfully so, should be addressed at the local level of each separate school district.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the New Hampshire Board of Education endorses the elimination of the use of Indian sports mascots and encourages all districts to examine this issue and to eliminate the use of sports mascots.

HB 1261 Prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Primary Sponsor

Representative Gerri Cannon

Strafford District 18

What do you envision when you see a Native American mascot image on a Football helmet or when someone dressed like a Native American tries to imitate their dances on a sports field? Do you see a Native American Physician, Police Officer, Engineer, Movie Star, an entrepreneur, or a Service man or woman? Most likely, you're thinking of an Indian Brave wearing a headband with feather stuck in it, sitting on a horse looking out over the plains.

If you are a Native American youth, what would you see? Would you see reminders of days when Indians were feared while they fought to keep the land they lived on? Would they see a future for themselves? Or would they see people making fun of Indians and disrespecting their clothing and ritual dances? Does their school have Native American classes or programs to learn the meaning behind their use of those mascots or logos?

Native American youth experience the highest rates of suicide among young people. Studies have shown that negative stereotypes and harmful "Indian" sports mascots are known to play a role in perpetuating feelings of inadequacy among Native youth. We are seeing many organizations across the nation reconsidering their use of Native American Images and names, including professional sports franchises.

In 2001 the US Commission on Civil Rights concluded that Native American references in sports "whether mascots and their performances, logos, or names, are disrespectful and offensive to American Indians and others who are offended by such stereotyping" and "are particularly inappropriate and insensitive in light of the long history of forced assimilation that American Indian people have endured in this country."

This position is shared by many national organizations, including the:

The American Psychological Association - They passed a resolution calling for the immediate retirement of American Indian mascots and imagery, citing potential negative effects it may have on the mental health and psychological behavior of American Indian people.

The American Sociological Association called for the discontinued use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sports, stating that "social science scholarship has demonstrated that the continued use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport harm Native American people in psychological, educational, and social ways.

2002 - NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire State Board of Education is aware that various Native American organizations, state and local officials, and private citizens, find the use of Native American mascots and symbols within our public schools to be offensive; and

WHEREAS, the use of Native American symbols as mascots, logos and sport team nicknames have, in the opinion of the Board, a detrimental affect on the achievement, education, self-concept and self-esteem of American Indian students and sends an improper message to everyone of the true meaning and spirit of being of American Indian heritage; and

WHEREAS, several schools in New Hampshire continue to have Indian sports mascots; and

WHEREAS, all heritages, cultures, races and religion have the right to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, it is important to be culturally sensitive and to educate everyone working within the New Hampshire School Education System, that no matter how well meaning their intentions, that their actions may be offensive and harmful to some and therefore, need to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association, the Society of Indian Psychologists and the US Commission of Civil Rights, have all endorsed the elimination of the use of Indian sports mascots; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes this is a matter that is, and rightfully so, should be addressed at the local level of each separate school district.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the New Hampshire Board of Education endorses the elimination of the use of Indian sports mascots and encourages all districts to examine this issue and to eliminate the use of sports mascots.

Retirement the use of Native American Mascots is being considered in many States, Businesses and Sports Teams. There are some States with a large Native American presence and schools with Native American educational programs who may allow some of those schools to use Native American Imagery. NH has Native American families, primarily from the Cowasuck Band of the Penacook-Abenaki people. None of NH's Schools have Native American educational programs.

Some people have compared Notre Dame's use of the Fighting Irish Mascot to the use of Native American Mascots.

In a statement to the Indy Star, the school defended its use of the Irish mascot:

"It is worth noting ... that there is no comparison between Notre Dame's nickname and mascot and the Indian and warrior names (and) mascots used by other institutions such as the NFL team formerly known as the Redskins," the statement read. "None of these institutions were founded or named by Native Americans who sought to highlight their heritage by using names and symbols associated with their people.

Over the past two years we have enacted legislation to encourage us all to treat each other respectfully as equals. This is one of the reasons why I'm bringing this legislation forward. We need to treat our Native American brothers and sisters with respect and as equals. We need to let all our children learn in an environment that accepts them for who they are today and not by the deeds of their ancestors.

Additional information

In May 2019, Maine's Governor Janet Mills signed into law a bill passed unanimously by the Legislature to prohibit Native American mascots in all Maine public schools.

"While Indian mascots were often originally chosen to recognize and honor a school's unique connection to Native American communities in Maine, we have heard clearly and unequivocally from Maine tribes that they are a source of pain and anguish," said Governor Mills. "A mascot is a symbol of pride, but it is not the source of pride. Our people, communities, and understanding and respect for one another are Maine's source of pride and it is time our symbols reflect that."

Notable Colleges and Universities That Have Changed Their Names

(from usatoday.com)

Stanford University – Indians to Cardinal (1972)

University of Massachusetts – Redmen to Minutemen (1972)

Dartmouth – Indians to Big Green (1974)

Siena – Indians to Saints (1988)

Eastern Michigan – Hurons to Eagles (1991)

St. John's (N.Y.) – Redmen to Red Storm (1994)

Marquette – Warriors to Golden Eagles (1994)

Miami (Ohio) – Redskins to RedHawks (1997)

Seattle University – Chieftains to Redhawks (2000)

Louisiana-Monroe – Indians to Warhawks (2006)

Arkansas State – Indians to Red Wolves (2008)

North Dakota – formally dropped Fighting Sioux in 2012.

Support HB 1261 – Stop Public Schools from Perpetuating Negative and Damaging Stereotypes about Indigenous People

Bill Summary: HB 1261 would prohibit the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

New Hampshire schools should foster safe and inclusive learning environments for all students – not promote racist stereotypes and imagery. Race-based mascots and imagery undermine the educational experience of all students, and eliminating their use is critical to fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment. That is why the New Hampshire State Board of Education endorsed the elimination of the use of Indigenous sports mascots in 2002.ⁱ The Board found that the use of Native American mascots and symbols within our public schools has a “detrimental effect on the achievement, education, self-concept and self-esteem of American Indian students and sends an improper message to everyone of the true meaning and spirit of being of American Indian heritage.”ⁱⁱ The New Hampshire State Board of Education’s declaration echoes the sentiments of hundreds of national agencies and organizations across the country. The United States Commission on Civil Rights has called for an end to the use of Native American mascots in non-native schools because they teach all students that stereotyping of minority students is acceptable.ⁱⁱⁱ In 2005, the American Psychiatric Association publicly called for “the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots” because they teach, “misleading, and too often, insulting images of American Indians.”^{iv} Nationwide, more than 115 other organizations representing civil rights, educational, athletic, and scientific professions have made similar statements.^v

Across the country, schools and professional sports teams alike have been following a growing trend towards retiring Indigenous mascots. Two years ago the Washington professional football team retired the logo and team name of 87 years. In another recent decision, the Cleveland professional baseball team announced that they would retire their Indigenous mascot based on a goal to promote diversity and inclusion. Many New Hampshire schools have followed this national trend and retired their Native American mascots. Coe-Brown Northwood Academy in Northwood changed its nickname to the Black Bears in 2002. Goffstown High School changed its name to the Grizzlies in the mid-1990s, and Merrimack Valley High school replaced its Native American mascot with a lion in the early 2000s.

Prohibiting the use of Native American mascots is an important step towards meaningful compliance with federal and state laws. Both federal and state laws protect students from discrimination at school, including protection against a hostile environment on the basis of race or national origin.^{vi} Perpetuating Native American mascots creates a hostile environment for Indigenous students.

In 2019 Maine became the first state in the nation to end the harmful use of Native American mascots in schools entirely. Maine law prohibits Native American mascots in all Maine public schools. When signing the bill into law, Maine Governor Janet Mills rightly stated, “A mascot is a symbol of pride, but it is not the source of pride. Our people, communities, and understanding and respect for one another are Maine’s source of pride and it is time our symbols reflect that.”^{vii}

Support HB 1261: Retiring Native American mascots is the right and respectful thing to do.

ⁱ Jenny Whidden, *New Bill Would Ban Native American Mascots In N.H. Schools*, New Hampshire Public Radio, Aug. 27, 2021, available at <https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2021-08-27/new-bill-would-ban-native-american-mascots-in-nh-schools>.

ⁱⁱ *Id.*

ⁱⁱⁱ Statement of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the Use of Native American Images and Nicknames as Sports Symbols, 2001, available at <https://www.usccr.gov/files/press/archives/2001/041601st.htm>.

^{iv} American Psychological Association, *Resolution Recommending the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots, Symbols, Images, and Personalities by Schools, Colleges, Universities, Athletic Teams, and Organizations*, Aug. 21, 2005, available at <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/policy/indian-mascots.pdf>.

^v American Psychological Association, *Communique, Legislative efforts to eliminate native-themed mascots, nicknames, and logos: Slow but steady progress post-APA resolution*, Aug. 2010, available at <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/communique/2010/08/native-themed-mascots#:~:text=In%20August%2C%202005%2C%20the%20American%20Psychological%20Association%20Council,Colleges%2C%20Universities%2C%20Athletic%20Teams%2C%20and%20Organizations%20%28APA%2C%202005%29>.

^{vi} 42 U.S.C. § 2000d.

^{vii} State of Maine, Governor Janet Mills, *Governor Mills Signs Bill to Prohibit Native American Mascots in Maine*, May 16, 2019, available at <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-signs-bill-prohibit-native-american-mascots-maine-2019-05-16>.

HB 1261 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2318

04/05

HOUSE BILL **1261**

AN ACT prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cannon, Straf. 18; Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep. Vail, Hills. 30; Rep. Tucker, Coos 5; Rep. Ellis, Straf. 8; Rep. Bartlett, Merr. 19; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits a public educational institution from using a Native American mascot, except under certain circumstances.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT prohibiting the use of Native American mascots in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Legislative Intent. The general court finds that:

2 I. The presence and use of derogatory Native American mascots, including images and
3 names, creates an unsafe learning environment for Native American students by creating serious
4 negative impacts on those students' mental health and by promoting bullying of Native American
5 students.

6 II. Native American mascots teach non-Native American children inaccurate information
7 about Native American culture and teach them that it is acceptable to participate in culturally
8 abusive and prejudicial behaviors.

9 2 New Chapter; Prohibition on Use of Native American Mascots. Amend RSA by inserting after
10 chapter 188-H the following new chapter:

11 CHAPTER 188-I

12 PROHIBITION ON USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS

13 188-I:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

14 I. "Native American mascot" means a name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to a
15 Native American tribe, individual, custom, or tradition that is used as a mascot, nickname, logo,
16 letterhead, or team name for the school.

17 II. "Public educational institution" means a public elementary or secondary school,
18 component institution of the university system or community college system of New Hampshire,
19 vocational school, junior college, or other educational institution that is supported in whole or in
20 part by general fund money.

21 188-I:2 Native American Mascots Prohibited. No public educational institution shall use a
22 Native American mascot, image, or name after January 1, 2024.

23 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2024.