



**BISHOP OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of the* RIO GRANDE**

THE RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL BUERKEL HUNN

21 September 2023

National Native American
Boarding School Healing Coalition
Attn: Deborah Parker, CEO
2525 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 120
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

TO: Deborah Parker, CEO

As Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande, I urge the support of S.1723, A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

Last year, the Department of Interior released a report documenting the legacy of the harmful Indian boarding school policies. The information in the Interior's initial report makes it clear that Congress must act urgently to introduce and pass legislation that would mandate public hearings to help educate Americans about the sins of our country's past and develop recommendations for our government to heal the historical traumas related to the Indian boarding school policies.

The Episcopal Church has historical ties to the assimilation policies and cultural genocide committed by boarding schools making it important to me that our nation begins the truth-telling and reconciliation efforts necessary to heal our violent legacy.

Please act now. Thank you for your consideration.

Faithfully,

The Right Rev'd Michael Buerkel Hunn
Bishop, Diocese of the Rio Grande