



Coalition of Natives and Allies

Cultivating Unity to End Racism

July 14, 2022

Dear Senator Schatz and the Committee on Indian Affairs,

The Coalition of Natives and Allies (CNA), a Pennsylvania-based coalition led by Native voices, educates communities, schools and universities on the true history of our country. We understand that the “Boarding School” era in this country added to the profound harm that has been caused since first contact with Europeans. In our educational program, the Native American Boarding Schools and adoption programs are a central theme, given that two of our members have personal family experience with both of those harmful practices.

We understand the powerful intergenerational impact of the Boarding School era on all members of Native communities in the United States and Canada. We also understand how most Americans haven’t been truthfully educated, therefore have no idea about this chapter in our shared history. Our Coalition co-founders visited the Pennsylvania State Capitol to meet representatives and discovered that nearly all were unaware of this history, despite the flagship school – Carlisle Indian Industrial School – being less than 30 miles from the Commonwealth’s Capitol.

We seek justice for Indigenous peoples by working on legislation to end the use of Native peoples for sports mascots. Decolonizing our schools by bringing awareness of the blatant racism and harm in misappropriation of the Native minority as stereotypical archaic mascots, is part of our mission.

[We wholeheartedly support S. 2907 to begin the healing process in this country.](#) We will never be the country that we are capable of being without this history and truth told, the harm expressed, the wrongs witnessed, and the healing beginning. The land we occupy, the air we breathe, the lakes we swim in, and resources we enjoy, come at a huge price to the original peoples of this land. It is time for this to be acknowledged and healing to begin. We urge supportive actions of repair be made in any way possible.

Most sincerely,
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We acknowledge Pennsylvania exists on the tribal lands of the Erie, Haudenosaunee, Lenape, Munsee, Shawnee and Susquehannock.

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