



RESOLUTION NO: 2023-245

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE LEGISLATION TO CREATE THE TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES ACT IN THE UNITED STATES

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WHEREAS, attempts to destroy Native cultures, religions, and languages through assimilationist practices and policies can be traced to the early 17th century and the founding charters of some of the oldest educational institutions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal Indian Boarding School Policy was expressly intended to accomplish genocide—the systematic destruction of Indigenous identities and beliefs, and taking of Native lands; and

WHEREAS, between 1819 and the 1960s hundreds of thousands of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children were removed from their homes and families and placed in Indian boarding schools operated by the federal government and churches; and

WHEREAS, many of the children who were taken to Indian boarding schools did not survive, and of those who did survive, many never returned to their parents, extended families, or communities; and

WHEREAS, many of the children who were taken to Indian boarding schools who did not survive were interred in cemeteries and unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities continue to experience intergenerational trauma and cultural and familial disruption from experiences rooted in Indian Boarding Schools Policies, which divided family structures, damaged cultures and individual identities, and inflicted chronic physical and psychological ramifications on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the descendants of these children, spanning across multiple generations, bear the legacy of Indian boarding schools and the enduring federal policy that established and perpetuated them, wherein the trauma they endured remains unacknowledged and unresolved to this day; and

WHEREAS, many of the children who were taken to Indian boarding schools and did not survive were interred in cemeteries and unmarked graves; and the children who perished in neighboring hospitals and other institutions were buried in on-campus and off-campus cemeteries and unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS, parents of children who were forcibly removed from or coerced into leaving their homes and placed in Indian boarding schools were prohibited from visiting or engaging in correspondence with their children; and

WHEREAS, parental resistance to compliance with the harsh, no-contact policy of Indian boarding schools resulted in parents being incarcerated or losing access to basic human rights, food rations, and clothing; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a responsibility to fully investigate its role in, and the lasting effects of, Indian Boarding School Policies; and

WHEREAS, the survivors of Indian boarding schools are victims of crimes that the United States has never acknowledged or accounted for; and

WHEREAS, the facts and history about the pervasive harm caused continues in the historical and intergenerational trauma attributable to the Boarding School Policy and is poorly understood by the American public, the Congress and the Executive Branch of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, it has been identified that 508 Indian boarding schools existed across 38 states but this does not include day schools, asylums, orphanages, and hospitals that were used to take Native children from their family and Tribes during this same time period; and

WHEREAS, it has been identified that the State of Michigan had 8 Indian Boarding Schools; and

WHEREAS, it has been identified that students from Michigan, including the Sault Ste Marie area, attending the Carlisle Indian Industrial School as well as other Indian Boarding Schools in other states such as the Flandreau Indian School located in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, to **support the establishment of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States**, including other necessary advisory committees and subcommittees to:

- formally investigate, document, and report on the histories of Indian boarding schools, Indian Boarding School Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects on Native American peoples;
- to develop recommendations for federal action based on the findings of the Commission;
- to promote healing for survivors of Indian boarding schools, the descendants of those survivors, and the communities of those survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians does hereby support the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies in the United States Act"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians urges the House and Senate to pass the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies in the United States Act"; and

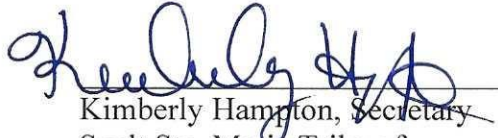
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians calls on President Joe Biden and Interior Secretary Debra Haaland to garner the full authority of the Biden Administration to support these bills.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairman and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 12 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 18 day of July 2023; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 11 members for, 0 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.



Austin Lowes, Chairman
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians



Kimberly Hampton, Secretary
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians