

John L. DiMino, Ph.D.

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a clinical psychologist who studied with and participated in ceremony with Lakota Native American spiritual and community leaders on the Rosebud reservation for a ten-year period. I also led service immersion trips there when I worked as director of counseling services for Temple University.

During those years I became intimately aware of the abuses of the boarding schools from elders who shared their stories about the Carlisle Indian School. Hearing these stories of abuse from trusted elders who experienced it made quite an impression on me. This past year, I was honored to be invited to support a small delegation of Lakota elders in reclaiming the remains from several children's graves at Carlisle.

It was a very painful experience, given the deep hurt these elders felt as they did this work for their tribe. They expressed very respectfully but also assertively how important it is for both the deceased children and their living relatives to have these remains returned home. I am happy to say that the members of the military and academic communities involved were helpful and respectful during this exceedingly challenging task.

I fully support H.R. 5444/S.2907. Learning the truth about this misguided approach to "educating" Native American children is important to begin a process of healing that must be part of the spiritual work of our great nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John DiMino, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist