

# Resolution in Support for the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act and Associated Efforts

**WHEREAS**, assimilation processes, such as the Indian Boarding School Policies, were adopted by the United States Government to strip American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children of their Indigenous identities, beliefs, and languages to assimilate them into non-Native culture through government schools and federally funded and controlled Christian-run schools, which had the intent and, in many cases, the effect, of termination, with dire and intentional consequences to the cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indian Boarding school policies began with the enactment of the Act of March 3, 1819 (3 Stat. 516, chapter 85) and the peace policy with Tribal nations advanced by President Ulysses Grant in 1868, under which more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in any of 460 Bureau of Indian Affairs-operated schools, often church-run, at which assimilation and "civilization" practices, as well as documented physical, sexual psychological, industrial and spiritual abuse and neglect were inflicted on those children who were as young as three years old, as part of the assimilation efforts of the Federal Government, advancing eradication of indigenous peoples in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, as stated in the [2018 Broken Promises Report](#) published by the United States Commission on Civil Rights, Federal Indian boarding school policies which divided cultural family structures, damaged Indigenous identities, and inflicted chronic psychological injury on American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children, families, and communities, continue to cause intergenerational trauma, cycles of violence and abuse, disappearance, health disparities, substance abuse, premature deaths, additional undocumented physical, sexual, psychological, industrial, and spiritual abuse and neglect, and trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress intends to introduce legislation titled: [To establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes](#), the Act may be cited as the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act" (Commission) the purposes of which are to formally investigate and document, for the first time in history, the attempted termination of cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples, assimilation practices, and human rights violations that occurred against American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through Indian Boarding School Policies in furtherance of the motto to "kill the Indian in him and save the man"; and to formally investigate and document the impacts and ongoing effects of historical and intergenerational trauma in Native communities, including the effects of the attempted cultural and linguistic termination of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, resulting from Indian Boarding School Policies, among other things; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission's main role is to develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to adequately hold itself accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Washington State National Organization for Women supports all congressional efforts to pass legislation approving the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act and similar initiatives, and subsequent recommendations, to hold the federal government accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies.

**Adopted May 21, 2022**, by the Washington State National Organization for Women  
Cathy Baylor, Legislation Liaison, Seattle National Organization for Women; Legislative Liaison Washington State National Organization for Women

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2907/all-actions?overview=closed#tabs>

<https://boardingschoolhealing.org/advocacy/resolutions-and-petitions/>

<https://boardingschoolhealing.org/coalition-urges-support-for-bill-establishing-a-truth-and-healing-commission-on-indian-boarding-school-policies-in-the-u-s/>