

## HCR003S01 compared with HCR003

~~{deleted text}~~ shows text that was in HCR003 but was deleted in HCR003S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in HCR003 but was inserted into HCR003S01.

**DISCLAIMER:** This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Representative Elizabeth Weight proposes the following substitute bill:

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS AND EQUALITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Elizabeth Weight**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### LONG TITLE

##### General Description:

This resolution recognizes the harm done by using Native American mascots, encourages schools in the public education system to retire those mascots, and encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to provide instruction in Native American culture and history.

##### Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes that using Native American names, imagery, symbols, and regalia as school mascots wrongfully characterizes and causes harm to Native Americans;

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- ▶ explains the harmful effects that using these mascots creates in the education and development of all students, including the contribution to high rates of school drop out and death by suicide among Native American youth;
- ▶ encourages public school leaders to engage with Native American communities to develop processes for retiring these mascots; and
- ▶ encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to include instruction on the history, culture, and traditions of Native Americans in public school curriculum.

### Special Clauses:

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, the United States of America holds the values of democracy, equality, and justice as fundamental cornerstones upon which to build society;

WHEREAS, all people are interconnected as one human family and should be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their racial and ethnic identity;

WHEREAS, Utah is the home of various cultural and racial groups, about 60,000 of them American Indians and Alaska Natives;{+}

WHEREAS, Utah is the ancestral home of eight tribes, each with a distinctive and rich heritage of culture and traditions, and each with a sovereign government;{+}

WHEREAS, Native Americans are a vital part of Utah's history, its present, and its future;

WHEREAS, the tribal sovereignty of Native American tribes includes the right to make or participate in decisions about their citizenry and identity;

WHEREAS, all students, including Native American students, deserve a respectful and nurturing school environment that encourages positive educational, emotional, and social development;

WHEREAS, all students have the right to receive an education free of discrimination and exploitation, and, according to the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, racial harassment denies students their rights;

WHEREAS, Native American names, imagery, symbols, regalia, and characterizations

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as school or team mascots symbolize a previous era when white Americans constructed inaccurate portrayals of Native Americans to assert their dominance over Native Americans;{ }

WHEREAS, such inaccurate portrayals and caricatures strip elements of Native American culture of their sacred meaning and dignity;

WHEREAS, hundreds of tribal governments, organizations, and citizens have encouraged schools and other sports teams to retire Native American mascots for the last 50 years, and while many schools and athletic teams have stopped using Native American mascots, the tradition persists in some regions;

WHEREAS, the National Collegiate Athletic Association requires all participating institutions of higher education to retire Native American mascots except in situations where specific tribal names are used with the express permission from that tribe's legitimate government, and with consensual terms of agreement open to renegotiation;{ }

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized and respected that images of other historically subordinated racial and ethnic minority groups are not used as mascots due to the obvious racially discriminating and dehumanizing implications;{ }

WHEREAS, despite the rights of a sovereign Native American nation to determine how its identity and citizens are portrayed, Native American mascots were created without permission from Native Americans, and the names and imagery used in these school mascots are dehumanizing to Native Americans and perpetuate insulting stereotypes;

WHEREAS, because Native American mascots are among the few depictions of Native Americans in American culture, and because those depictions are often savage in nature, they send powerful and damaging messages to all students about the place of Native Americans in their school, community, state, and country, especially if students have little contact with Native Americans;

WHEREAS, in 2005 the American Psychological Association called for schools and athletic organizations to immediately retire the use of Native American mascots because of the damaging effects these mascots have on the self-esteem and heritage of Native American youth and the misleading messages they send about all Native Americans;

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of research about how using Native American school mascots creates a school environment that is deeply harmful to Native American students' social and emotional health and development, and is directly related to the high

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suicide rate of Native American youth and the high rate of violence against Native American peoples;

WHEREAS, a 2017 study by the United States Department of Health and Human Services found that suicide was the second leading cause of death for Native Americans aged 10 to 34, and the overall death rate for Native American teenage girls was three times higher than the death rate for white teenage girls;

WHEREAS, Native American students in ~~{Utah}~~ Utah's public education system are less likely to graduate from high school than white students and have lower academic outcomes than many of their peers; and

WHEREAS, school leaders in the public education system have an opportunity to thoughtfully engage with those who have been harmed by Native American school mascots and create a process for removing and replacing those mascots:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, hereby encourage all schools ~~{and athletic teams}~~ in the public education system with Native American mascots -- including names, imagery, symbols, regalia, and characterizations -- to engage with Native American communities to create their own processes to retire these mascots out of respect for the cultural and spiritual traditions and practices of their Native American neighbors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage the State Board of Education and local education agencies (LEAs) to include instruction on the history and culture of Native Americans in public school curriculum, specifically the Native Americans who were first on the land in each LEA's geographic region and who live there now.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor hereby encourage all Utah citizens -- including non-Native American citizens -- to learn about the history and heritage of Native Americans, including the history of indigenous peoples who live on and have lived on Utah lands.