

RESOLUTION NO. 23-30

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES ACT

WHEREAS, assimilation and “civilization” processes against Native Americans, such as the Indian Boarding School Policies, were adopted by the United States 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 federally funded and controlled Christian-run schools, which had the intent and, in many cases, the effect, of termination, with dire and intentional consequences on the cultures and languages of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, as early as 1819 and until 1969, the United States federal government directly or indirectly supported approximately 521 Indian Boarding Schools across 38 states, often church run, at which assimilation and “civilization” practices were inflicted on those children as part of the federal government’s goal of advancing eradication of Indigenous Peoples in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Indian Boarding School policy’s deliberate intent was to separate Native American children from their families, cultures, communities, and Tribal Nations through removal and reeducation; and,

WHEREAS, many tribal children were sent to boarding schools that served as a place to experiment on and abuse children medically, physically, psychologically, and sexually; and,

WHEREAS, the 2018 Broken Promises Report published by the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights reported that American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples continue to experience intergenerational trauma resulting from experiences in Indian boarding schools, which divided families, undermined cultural and societal structures, damaged Indigenous identities, and inflicted chronic psychological damage to American Indian and Alaska Native children and families; and,

WHEREAS, Congress introduced legislation titled the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act to establish the Truth and Healing Commission (Commission) on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, conduct a full inquiry into the assimilative policies of U.S. Indian boarding schools, and provide recommendations for justice and healing; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Act are to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States 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 and Practices; now therefore,

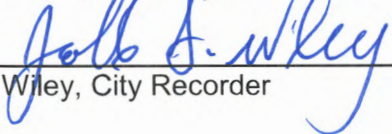
NOW, THEREFORE, OREGON CITY RESOLVES that the Metro Council hereby supports congressional efforts to pass legislation approving the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act and bolstering initiatives, and subsequent recommendations, to hold the federal government accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies.

Approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Commission held on the 6th day of December 2023.



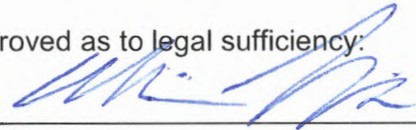
DENYSE C. MCGRIFF
Mayor

Attested to this 6th day of December 2023:



Jakob Wiley, City Recorder

Approved as to legal sufficiency:



City Attorney