

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1044

By: Wesselhoft of the House

and

Lerblance of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution supporting a U.S. Congressional Apology to Native Americans and offering an apology to Native Peoples on behalf of the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Oklahoma Legislature, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public towards a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety, and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, United States policies towards Native Americans and Native Peoples' governments included policies of massacres, assimilation, economic deprivation, the forcible dissolution of Native American families and the disintegration of tribal governance systems; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these U.S. policies is the source of the many undue social and economic burdens that tribes face today and

the United States' failure to uphold its treaties and moral obligations to tribes undermines tribal governance; and

WHEREAS, U.S. policies have contributed to a lack of awareness among Americans about the distinct role of Native Americans and their tribal governments in this country both historically and today; and

WHEREAS, the United States passed an apology resolution enumerating the various wrongdoings of the U.S. government in relation to the Native Hawaiians and Kingdom of Hawai'i in 1993; and the Canadian government likewise apologized to its First peoples in 1998; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Brownback from the State of Kansas has initiated a nonpartisan effort that has gained the full support of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to pass joint congressional resolution S.J. Res. 15 whose purpose is to "acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature does hereby offer an apology to Native Peoples on behalf of the State of Oklahoma and also supports the passage by the United States Congress of S.J. Res. 15 and calls on tribal leaders to voice support for its passage as a first step towards recognizing wrongdoings and the need for the United States to fulfill its trust obligations and government-to-government relationship with tribes; and

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature will support the education of Congressional members and others to learn about specific historical events and policies by inviting Legislative leadership to visit with

tribal communities where these policies resulted in atrocities that have had negative historical and present-day implications for Native Peoples and their governments.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and to the tribes and sovereign nations in the State of Oklahoma.

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