



December 12, 2021

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator _____
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator _____
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Please support Indigenous legislation

Dear Members of Congress,

As an Episcopalian and your constituent, I want to ask you to support the passage of two pieces of legislation in support of Indigenous Peoples. I urge you to support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act (H.R. 5444/S. 2907) and legislation to designate Indigenous Peoples' Day as a legal public holiday and replace the term "Columbus Day" with the term "Indigenous Peoples' Day" (H.R. 5473/S. 2919).

I am inspired by the Department of Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and believe that an additional congressional commission would aid our nation's efforts in addressing the harmful legacy left by Indian Boarding school policies. My own Episcopal Church has historical ties to the assimilation policies and cultural genocide committed by boarding schools. Also, our congregation is participating in a project called Telling the Whole Story that is dealing with white supremacy in the church. There are two committees working on it. One is looking into the history of the land that our church is built on, which originally was Tongva/Gabrielino. The other committee is looking at the history of our stained glass windows, which depict all the Biblical characters and saints as white. Therefore, it important to me that our nation begins the truth-telling and reconciliation efforts necessary to heal our violent legacy.

Additionally, it is important that the federal government follows the leads of many different states and cities in recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day as a public holiday to honor the importance of Indigenous communities across the country. I urge and appreciate your support for the passage of both these bills because both The Episcopal Church and I are committed to the work of racial reconciliation and standing in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____
