

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Education.

HB24-1444 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:

2 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
3 assembly finds and declares that:

4 (a) Beginning with the federal "Indian Civilization Act" enacted
5 in 1819, the United States enacted laws and implemented policies
6 establishing and supporting federal Indian boarding schools across the
7 nation. The purpose of federal Indian boarding schools was to culturally
8 assimilate American Indian children by forcibly relocating them from
9 their families and communities to distant residential facilities to suppress
10 the children's identities, language, and beliefs. For over one hundred fifty
11 years, hundreds of thousands of American Indian children were taken
12 from their communities. Over three hundred fifty federal Indian boarding
13 schools existed in the United States. By 1926, nearly eighty-three percent
14 of all American Indian children of school age were in boarding schools.

15 (b) The impact of the boarding schools on American Indian
16 families has been immeasurable. Families lost their traditional language,
17 parenting authority, and the ability to pass on American Indian culture
18 and traditions. The trauma from Indian boarding schools crosses
19 generational boundaries and the boarding school policy resulted in
20 long-standing intergenerational trauma, cycles of violence and abuse,
21 disappearance of American Indian people, premature deaths, mental
22 health disorders, and substance abuse in American Indian communities.

23 (c) In Colorado, there were at least seven federal Indian boarding
24 schools, including: the Teller Indian school in Grand Junction, the
25 Southern Ute boarding school in Ignacio, a boarding school in Towaoc
26 operated by the federal bureau of Indian affairs, and the original Fort
27 Lewis Indian school in Hesperus, Colorado;

28 (d) In order to heal from the generational trauma, we must
29 confront the past and shed light on the hidden cruelty;

30 (e) It is the intent of the general assembly to build on the first
31 report of the "Federal Indian Boarding Schools in Colorado: 1880-1990",
32 completed by History Colorado;

33 (f) There are still outstanding archival and physical research
34 questions to be answered about boarding schools in Colorado;

35 (g) Tribal representations noted that the work must include the
36 voices of American Indian peoples who are impacted, which will be
37 served by the oral history work; and

38 (h) The tribal consultations during the fiscal year 2023 were
39 focused on research updates, and there should be additional tribal
40 consultations with thirty-three tribal nations and listening sessions with

- 1 American Indian and Alaska Native communities in urban communities
- 2 to address and plan for a number of key topics including care and
- 3 memorialization at sites, support for impacted communities, and
- 4 education for impacted communities and Colorado in general."
- 5 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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