

TALKING POINTS FOR SENDING EMAIL COMMENTS TO SCHOOL BOARDS FACING MASCOT CHALLENGES

- 1) There is a movement for justice for all Americans for equity, inclusion and respect. Ending the use of Native Americans for mascots is on the right side of social justice. Twenty states have or are in the process of passing laws to end Native American mascots. An educational institution needs to be on the right side of history.
- 2) Peer-reviewed research has documented the evidence of harm on Native American communities by equating a group of people and their culture to a sports mascot.
- 3) Stereotyping one group of people encourages stereotyping of other minorities. Racist mascots are not in compliance with schools Codes of Ethics and Conduct.
- 4) The majority of Native Americans, and respected Native American organizations have condemned the use of Native American mascots.
- 5) In 2005 the National Psychological Association has condemned Native mascotry and recommended immediate retirement by schools, universities and athletic teams.
- 6) Mascots need to be considered in the context of a 500-year history of subjugation and taking: taking land, lives, children and now identity.
- 7) We take away Native identity with mascots, using it for our own entertainment and have the arrogance to tell them what that means.
- 8) NAGA, the Native American Guardian Association is an arm of the former Washington team that sells “Educate not Eradicate”. It does not Educate when what is being presented through mascots, costumes, tomahawk chops, and whoops is a false representation of Native Americans. By the way, NAGA is a 90+% white organization.