



## Chappaquiddick Tribe Of The Wampanoag Nation

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P.O. Box 2659, Edgartown, MA 02539

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The Chappaquiddick Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation calls for a prohibition on all Native American sport team mascots/nicknames/logos in Massachusetts public schools. We support legislation that will accomplish this goal, and including a regular curriculum segment in the Massachusetts public schools devoted to indigenous culture and the effects of colonization.

These mascots/nicknames/logos are offensive. They are harmful to Native American youth, resulting in distress, lower self-esteem, and a lowered sense of future possibilities. They foster stereotypes about Indigenous people.

A state law to address the problem of these nicknames/logos is necessary because many communities in Massachusetts resist calls to eliminate the Native American nicknames/logos used by their schools. We have students attending school in a number of counties in Massachusetts. Any time a school sports team plays a game against a school with an offensive mascot, they experience demoralizing racial prejudice. Native American mascots in sport are not educationally sound for Native American and non-indigenous youth.

Many Native American and academic organizations support the elimination of Native American nicknames/logos.

Sincerely,

Alma Gordon, White Sky  
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Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Tribe