

## 2013-J4907

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION condemning the promotion and marketing of dictionary-defined racial slurs as school mascots

WHEREAS, City Councils and school boards across the country have called for an end to the use of dictionary-defined racial slurs as sports team names; and

WHEREAS, The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has worked to halt the use of dictionary-defined racial slurs as team names; and

WHEREAS, Many major news organizations have declared they will not repeat the use of dictionary-defined racial slurs by sports teams; and

WHEREAS, Professional sports leagues have both the power and moral obligation to halt individual franchises from promoting dictionary-defined racial slurs; and

WHEREAS, The United States Government, through the Patent Office, has identified "redskin" as "a derogatory slang term"; and

WHEREAS, Decades of social science research documents the negative psychological, cultural and public health effects of the public promotion of dictionary-defined racial slurs by sports teams; and

WHEREAS, State Legislatures have throughout history played a crucial role speaking out on behalf of equal rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body supports the equal treatment of all the people of New York State and discourages the use of dictionary-defined racial slurs as school mascots; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to, out of respect for the diverse heritage of the United States of America, urge owners of professional sports franchises to condemn the promotion and marketing of dictionary-defined racial slurs, and refrain from using them as names for school mascots.