

2013-J5966

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

WHEREAS, Students in Cooperstown, New York, recently declared racial slurs should not be used as team names and consequently worked with their school board to stop using the dictionary-defined racial slur "redskin" as their team's name; and

WHEREAS, Other school boards and city councils across the United States have followed Cooperstown students' example and taken actions to stop using the same dictionary-defined racial slur as a team name; and

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

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

WHEREAS, In addition, members of Congress, religious leaders and sports icons have spoken out against the use of dictionary-defined racial slurs as team names; 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, 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 follow the lead of the Cooperstown students and condemn the promotion and marketing of dictionary-defined racial slurs, and schools refrain from using them as names

for mascots.