

## S.139 Mascots

Good evening Daphne, as well as fellow Senate Education Committee Chairperson and Committee members.

I am writing both as an Abenaki Vermonter and Chair of the Governor's Racial Equity Advisory Panel, with the Panel showing support of S.139 which is a bill that addresses banning Mascots that are Native or Indigenous themed in schools around Vermont.

I am sure you are well aware of studies that have demonstrated the harm that Native themed mascots wreak on Indigenous peoples across the U.S.

They have additionally been found to "activate, reflect, and/or reinforce stereotyping and prejudice among non Native persons" as well (Race, Ethnicity and Education Journal, Davis-Delano, Laurel, PhD).

I and the Panel sincerely request and hope that the Vermont State Legislature passes this bill, banning Native themed mascots around the State.

Kchi wliwni,

Andrea Brett, Chair  
VT Racial Equity Advisory Panel