

A JOINT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to support, establish, or construct a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians.

WHEREAS, the indigenous peoples of this land are the original inhabitants of land that now constitutes the United States; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates numbered the American Indian population in North America at approximately ten million in the year 1500; and

WHEREAS, by 1900, the American Indian population was reduced to approximately 237,000; and

WHEREAS, the immense population reduction was caused both intentionally and by disease, and was intensified by forced migration, deprivation of nutrition, and neglect after relocation to unfamiliar, barren lands; and

WHEREAS, American Indians were the subject of centuries of circumstances that deprived them of land, liberty, livelihood, and life; and

WHEREAS, once our expanding nation found attractive the land occupied for centuries by American Indians, the land was often simply taken, frequently by force; and

WHEREAS, American Indians, displaced by the taking of the lands of their fathers and mothers, then had their liberties further violated through forced relocation, including the young being separated from their families to be sent away for schooling and assimilation; and

WHEREAS, American Indian tribes that resisted relocation and land takings were subdued by force and were, in some instances, pursued to extinction; and

WHEREAS, relocation stripped American Indians of the livelihoods they had made for centuries from their lands' often plentiful natural resources and forced them to scratch out a new life on lands with little value and few usable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, American Indians of today, as descendants of those against whom the original atrocities were perpetuated, have great resilience; and

WHEREAS, through this resilience, American Indians continue to progress beyond

the consequences of past atrocities; and

WHEREAS, establishing a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians and recognizing American Indians' valuable contribution to America, its history, and its culture would not only illuminate a vital chapter in American history, but would also implore that such atrocities should never happen again; and

WHEREAS, establishing a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians would be an important step toward reconciliation and intergenerational healing from these atrocities;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The General Assembly strongly urges the United States Congress to take action to support, establish, or construct a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly strongly urges each American Indian tribe to call upon the United States Congress to support, establish, or construct a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians and to support a Resolution for this purpose in the states in which the tribes reside.

➔Section 3. The General Assembly declares that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States; the Secretary of the Interior; the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs; the Majority Leader of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the chair of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; the chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs; the leader of each legislative house in each of the other states; each tribe recognized by the government of the United States; and to the members of Kentucky's congressional delegation.