



**Resolution Condemning the use of the term “Redskins”**

*Passed by the Washtenaw County Democratic Party on January 20, 2019*

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County Democratic Party (WCDP) accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and,

WHEREAS, the derogatory term "redskins" degrades and diminishes Native people throughout the history of the United States as documented in study after study and related by personal experiences of Native people in Indian Country and beyond. The negative effects on our children and our Native communities are long-lasting and detrimental to the positive self-esteem necessary to maintain the high quality of life that is the goal of thoughtful people everywhere; and,

WHEREAS, Native Americans are the only minority-status race of people in the United States used as sports team mascots; and,

WHEREAS, educational awareness and outreach are implemented to educate the communities about Native American culture, ensuring an opportunity for Native Americans to be seen in a safe, culturally appropriate manner, and helping to eliminate stereotypical views by creating an atmosphere free from hostility, intimidation and bullying in reference to race to promote a healthy environment for all individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Native American students are entitled to an educational environment that is not hostile - but is conducive to equal attainment of educational goals as with all other students; and,

WHEREAS, the protection of the wellbeing of Native American children is a high priority for the WCDP, including prevention of discrimination in schools that Native children attend; and,

WHEREAS, the United Tribes of Michigan, which consists of the leadership of Michigan's twelve federally recognized tribes, condemns the use of the term "redskins" per their resolution #05120170511;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCDP condemns the use of the term "redskins" by any Michigan educational institution, or any other educational institution or sports team, as any component of their sports mascot, name, or symbol;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCDP fully supports the Michigan State Board of Education in exercising authority to impose financial sanctions against any Michigan educational institution using the term "redskins" or any other race-based sports team names, mascots, images, logos, antics, song lyrics, or other displays in a manner deemed by Native American complainants as racially or culturally offensive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with appropriate committee for action and that this position of the MDP will remain in effect until which time it is replaced or repealed.