



WHERE DIFFERENCES ARE OUR STRENGTH

October 3, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Town & Country School proudly supports the tribal regalia bill, [SB 429](#), which vests students enrolled in a public school district or in an institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education with the right to wear tribal regalia during the institution's official graduation ceremonies, whether held at a public or private location. While we are not a public institution, it does not negate our responsibility as Americans and as Oklahomans to support tribal rights.

Due to the fact, Oklahoma is home to thirty-nine federally recognized Indian tribes, and over 156,000 Native American students. The Oklahoma Legislature, the Indian tribes, and tribal advocacy organizations that championed SB 429 should be commended for ensuring that Native American students in Oklahoma now unquestionably possess the right to proudly express their cultural heritage while celebrating their academic achievements.

More importantly, SB 429 represents a clear rejection of the cultural assimilation policy once championed by the United States and educational establishments, and long-overdue restorative justice in the relationship between Native Americans and educational institutions.

Sincerely,

*Shevaun Etier*

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Executive Director

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