

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1617

By Committee on Elections and Local Government

2-11

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9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting a United States con-  
10 gressional apology to Native Americans and offering an apology to  
11 native peoples on behalf of the state of Kansas.

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13 WHEREAS, It is time to acknowledge the history of official actions,  
14 the wrongful passage of statutes, policies and broken treaties against all  
15 native peoples and to extend an apology to them on behalf of the state of  
16 Kansas; and

17 WHEREAS, The founders of the republic, America in it's infancy,  
18 expressed their desire for a just relationship with the Indian tribes; and

19 WHEREAS, Indian tribes provided assistance to help young America  
20 grow; and

21 WHEREAS, Native peoples and non-native settlers engaged in nu-  
22 merous armed conflicts; and

23 WHEREAS, The state of Kansas violated many of the treaties ratified  
24 by congress; and

25 WHEREAS, The state of Kansas should have addressed broken trea-  
26 ties and many ill-conceived federal policies that followed, such as exter-  
27 mination, termination, forced removal and relocation, the outlawing of  
28 traditional religions, and destruction of sacred places; and

29 WHEREAS, The state of Kansas forced Indian tribes and their citizens  
30 to move away from their traditional homelands; and

31 WHEREAS, Many native peoples suffered during forced removal, in-  
32 cluding the trail of tears and during massacres in western Kansas; and

33 WHEREAS, The state of Kansas endeavored to assimilate the natives  
34 into the non-native culture by the forcible removal of native children from  
35 their families to boarding schools where their native practices and lan-  
36 guages were degraded and forbidden; and

37 WHEREAS, Native peoples are endowed by their creator with certain  
38 unalienable rights, and that among those are life, liberty and the pursuit  
39 of happiness: Now, therefore,

40 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*  
41 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the state of Kansas:

42 (1) Recognizes the special legal and political relationship the Indian  
43 tribes have with Kansas and the solemn covenant with the land we share;

1       (2) Commends and honors native peoples for the years they lived on  
2 the land and produced;

3       (3) Acknowledges years of official depredations, ill-conceived policies  
4 and the breaking of covenants by the government regarding Indian tribes;

5       (4) Repents of covenant breaking, deceptions and atrocities commit-  
6 ted against the native peoples in the name of the state of Kansas and their  
7 citizens;

8       (5) Sincerely apologizes for all action which brought death, harm,  
9 humiliation and suffering to the native peoples;

10       (6) Acknowledges the offenses of the state of Kansas against the In-  
11 dian tribes in order to bring healing to this land by providing a proper  
12 foundation for reconciliation between Kansas and the Indian tribes; and

13       (7) Desires to build, strengthen and support all endeavors to main-  
14 tain, encourage and foster a relationship of genuine respect, peace, fel-  
15 lowship and prosperity to all of the peoples of Kansas.

16       *Be it further resolved:* That nothing in this resolution authorizes any  
17 claim against the United States or Kansas or their citizens or serves as a  
18 settlement of any claim against the United States or Kansas or their  
19 citizens.