

TEACH RESPECT



NOT RACISM

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For Immediate Release
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Barb Munson to Gov. Scott Walker: The Clock is Ticking

Gov. Walker has only days left to veto AB297 to stop it from becoming law, and to keep a viable process in place to remove harmful "Indian" mascots from schools.

Barb Munson, Oneida, the chair of the Wisconsin Indian Education Association "Indian" Mascot and Logo Taskforce has been working to get stereotypical mascots of Native people out of Wisconsin schools for over 20 years.

She said, "The clock is ticking, I hope Governor Walker finds a pathway towards doing the right thing by vetoing AB297. It is important for the relationships between Native people and our neighbors that he exercises his veto power. It is about our children, all of our children. Simply put, vetoing this legislation is about respect."

Munson led the charge to get ACT250 passed in 2010, legislation that sets forward a process for getting these harmful mascots out of our schools. Munson, her organization, Native people across the state, and all people who seek a society free of racism, have been appalled by the legislation passed by the republican dominated WI Legislature. AB297, makes it nearly impossible to remove an "Indian" mascot from a school district in WI and now sits on Governor Scott Walker's desk waiting to be either vetoed or signed into law.

Some say his national aspirations may make him cautious to be seen as "racist" if he allows the bill to become law, upsetting the 11 tribes of WI, and tribes and people of color across the country. There is a trend nationally to get these mascots out of sports, with ongoing protests of the Washington R**skins, and the NCAA requiring many teams to change their mascots.

WIEA "Indian" Mascot and Logo Taskforce's petition will be delivered to Gov. Walker today to show the broad support, around the state and country, for vetoing this legislation: <http://www.change.org/petitions/governor-scott-walker-keep-race-based-mascots-out-of-our-schools>.

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