

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

S. C. R. No. 42

Senator Kearney

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To encourage the Cleveland Indians baseball franchise 1
to retire their nickname and mascot and to adopt a 2
new nickname and a new mascot free of racial 3
insensitivity. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The Cleveland Indians professional baseball 5
franchise is an enduring institution, which has contributed to the 6
well-being of Ohioans for over a century; and 7

WHEREAS, The franchise assumed its current nickname, the 8
Indians, in 1915; and 9

WHEREAS, Prior to 1915, the franchise had operated under 10
numerous other nicknames including the Lake Shores, the Spiders, 11
the Bluebirds, and the Naps; and 12

WHEREAS, Many notable athletes such as Roberto Alomar, Steve 13
Carlton, Bob Feller, Nap Lajoie, Frank Robinson, and Cy Young have 14
played for the Cleveland franchise, some prior to the adoption of 15
the current nickname; and 16

WHEREAS, Louis Sockalexis, who played for the Cleveland 17
Spiders between 1897 and 1899, may have been the first person of 18
Native American ancestry to play for a major league baseball 19
franchise; and 20

WHEREAS, In 1947, Larry Doby became the first 21
African-American to play in the American League when he joined the 22
Cleveland Indians; and 23

WHEREAS, In 1975, Frank Robinson was named player-manager by 24
the Cleveland franchise, making Robinson the first black manager 25
of a major league baseball franchise; and 26

WHEREAS, The franchise nickname and the Chief Wahoo logo have 27
been criticized for perpetuating Native American stereotypes; and 28

WHEREAS, Native American groups have organized peaceful 29
protests against the Cleveland Indians franchise for many years; 30
and 31

WHEREAS, Cleveland City Councilman Zack Reed has called for 32
the city to ban the display of the Cleveland Indians mascot Chief 33
Wahoo on public property; and 34

WHEREAS, In 2005, the American Psychological Association 35
Council of Representatives adopted a resolution recommending the 36
immediate retirement of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, 37
and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic 38
teams, and organizations; and 39

WHEREAS, Other professional sports franchises, such as the 40
Washington Redskins, are considering a name change; and 41

WHEREAS, Miami University and Dartmouth College have changed 42
their nicknames and mascots due to concerns of Native Americans 43
and the perpetuation of stereotypes; and 44

WHEREAS, A team named the Indians, or one that carries a 45
mascot of a stereotypical Native American caricature, such as 46
Chief Wahoo, is an affront to Native Americans; and 47

WHEREAS, An evolving sense of decency and respect demand that 48
the Cleveland Indians change their nickname and mascot; now 49
therefore be it 50

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the State of Ohio 51
encourages the Cleveland Indians baseball franchise to retire its 52
nickname and mascot and to adopt a new nickname and a new mascot 53
free of racial insensitivity; and be it further 54

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 55
authenticated copies of this resolution to the current owner of 56
the Cleveland Indians baseball franchise, and to the news media of 57
Ohio. 58