

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 215  
INDIGENOUS CHILDREN WHOSE REMAINS WERE FOUND ON  
THE GROUNDS OF THE KAMLOOPS INDIAN RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**WHEREAS**, Indian residential schools were established in the United States and Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries to "civilize" Native American children and assimilate them into European culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American children were removed from the custody of their parents, given new European names, forbidden to speak their Indigenous languages and forced to abandon their Native American identity and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, formal government investigations have revealed documented cases of starvation and physical and mental abuse in these residential schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the last of these residential schools closed only as recently as 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Canada's National Truth and Reconciliation Commission, at least 4,100 Canadian First Nations children died while attending residential schools in Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, due to poor and inaccurate record keeping, it is unknown how many Native American boys and girls died while attending residential schools in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2021, the remains of 215 children were found buried in a mass grave on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School located in British Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Canadian government recognized this moment by putting the Canadian flag at half-staff until further notice in memory of the thousands of children who were sent to residential schools, for those who never returned and in honor of the families whose lives were forever changed; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to honor and remember the 215 indigenous children found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.