

Twin Cities Friends Meeting  
Approved June 13, 2022

We, the Quaker congregation in Saint Paul, Minnesota, known as Twin Cities Friends Meeting, support passage of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act (S. 2907/H.R. 5444).

As we become aware of the past and ongoing harm caused by Indian boarding schools to Indigenous individuals, communities, and entire Indigenous nations, we acknowledge the grave moral wrong committed by the United States government in collaboration with American religious groups, including Quakers.

The bill will set up a Truth and Healing Commission to address the historical trauma experienced by Indigenous children in what is now the United States who were forcibly removed from their homes between 1869 and the 1960s and placed in Indian boarding schools. The children were forcibly dispossessed of their Indigenous languages, cultures, and spiritual practices and required to participate in Euro-American culture. Indigenous peoples continue to suffer multigenerational trauma caused by this policy of forced assimilation and cultural genocide.

We support the commission's purpose to assess not only the past harms but the current impacts of Indian boarding school policies on Indigenous peoples, and to propose remedies and funding to address these harms.

We believe that the proposed commission is a strong step toward addressing more than 500 years of genocide, colonization, and forced assimilation of Native peoples on our continent. It is part of the work necessary to build relationships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities based on truth, respect, justice, and our shared humanity.