

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 280

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Aguilar, 35; Albrecht, 17; Arch, 14; Brandt, 32; Brewer, 43; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; DeBoer, 10; Friesen, 34; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Hansen, B., 16; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Hunt, 8; Kolterman, 24; Lathrop, 12; Linehan, 39; Lowe, 37; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Morfeld, 46; Murman, 38; Pahls, 31; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the history of Native American boarding schools in the United States and specifically, Nebraska, wherein Native American children were often sent far away from their families and communities involuntarily, which left them particularly vulnerable and dependent upon the boarding school system to protect them from harm; and

WHEREAS, these children observed and suffered physical, emotional, cultural, spiritual, psychological, and sexual abuse, and punishment by physical restraints, beatings, and isolation in inhospitable surroundings; and

WHEREAS, these children, their children, and now their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, bear the burden of the legacy of the boarding schools and the policies that established and sustained those schools, where the children suffered trauma that had gone unrecognized and unresolved, and has been passed onto each subsequent generation; and

WHEREAS, this historical and intergenerational trauma continues to devastate, undermine, and negatively impact Native American individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Industrial School at Genoa operated between 1884 and 1934 as the fourth largest non-reservation boarding school established by the United States Office of Indian Affairs with a peak of five hundred ninety-nine attending in a single year; and

WHEREAS, at least eighty-six students died at the school many of whom are still unnamed, the Legislature hears the voice of the Native American boarding school survivors and desires to recognize the atrocities caused by Native

American boarding schools in the hope that it will aid in the journey towards healing for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the survivors of the Genoa Industrial School and other boarding schools in the state along with their families and communities are hereby acknowledged.

2. That the Legislature hereby declares February 20 as an annual day of remembrance to recognize the atrocities and trauma that have been endured by the survivors, their families, and their communities and to celebrate their courage, strength, and resiliency.