



Representative CJ McCormick
House District 38
Alaska State Legislature

House Joint Resolution 17

Sponsor Statement

“Urging the United States Congress to pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act”

The existence of Indian boarding schools within Alaska is widely known, infrastructure and graveyards from these sites still stand and sites such as Sheldon Jackson College are currently in use. The first-person accounts of harm and trauma experienced while attending Indian boarding schools can be found across all regions of the state and victims of that abuse are constituents of the State of Alaska. Throughout the United States, a lack of comprehensive documentation, available data and citable references to these cases have been a barrier to the acknowledgment of abuse and has served to erase the era of Indian boarding schools and intergenerational trauma that has been experienced as a result.

The impact of Indian boarding schools on the indigenous population is vast and far reaching, it has induced trauma for an existing generation of people and has largely gone unrecognized by the State of Alaska. The prevalence of unmarked grave sites at known boarding schools, cemeteries and undocumented missionary schools across Alaska illustrates the imperative for acknowledgment and reconciliation efforts to be prioritized within Alaska.