



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. KRICHBAUM, PhD
DIRECTOR

Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

Contact: Vicki Levengood
Communications Director
517/241-7978 (office)
517/242-0236 (cell)
LevengoodV@Michigan.gov

Statement from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) regarding the complaint filed with the US Department of Education February 8, 2013 asking the Department to prohibit the use American Indian mascots due to evidence that the imagery negatively impacts student learning and creates an unequal learning environment in violation of Article VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights has been notified by the US Department of Education that they have dismissed our complaint regarding the continued use of American Indian mascots and imagery in schools. We are disappointed that US Ed considered our complaint based only on the previously-established "hostile environment" standard, but chose not to consider whether the standard itself needs to be reexamined based on the empirical evidence we provided showing that it fails to prevent harm to students. MDCR believes the evidence is clear that students are being hurt by the continued used of American Indian mascots and imagery. We will continue to look for ways to ensure all students are equally protected. MDCR is reviewing the decision and considering next steps.

[Click here](#) for the correspondence from the US Department of Education dismissing the complaint filed by MDCR.

###