

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS**

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

**DECLARATION # 031722-01**

**Statement of Opposition for Senate Bill S. 0460, Amendment to the “Revised School Code” that bans Critical Race Theory (CRT) from being taught in Schools**

*A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. Declarations shall be approved by Tribal Council motion.*

The Waganakising Odawak is a nation of Tribal Citizens with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance; and

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621); and

In accordance with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Constitution:

*“ IN THE WAYS OF OUR ANCESTORS, to perpetuate our way of life for future generations, we the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, called in our own language the WAGANAKISING ODAWAK, a sovereign, self-governing people who follow the Anishinaabe Traditions, Heritage, and Cultural Values, set forth within this Constitution the foundation of our governance.*

*We will work together in a constructive, cooperative spirit to preserve and protect our lands resources and Treaty Rights, ... In keeping faith with our Ancestors, we shall preserve our Heritage while adapting to the present world around us... ” and*

A bill was recently introduced in the Michigan Senate, Senate Bill 460, introduced by Sen. Lana Theis (R-Brighton), that explicitly bans “critical race theory” (CRT) from being taught in schools. The bill also threatens to cut five-percent (5%) of a school’s funding if they violate this proposed law. The Bill further states that schools are prohibited from teaching any of the following:

- > *That any race is inherently superior or inferior to any other race.*
- > *That the United States is a fundamentally racist country.*
- > *That the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution are fundamentally racist documents.*
- > *That an individual's moral character or worth is determined by his or her race.*
- > *That an individual, by virtue of his or her race, is inherently racist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.*

Critical Race Theory is not about casting anyone as a victim or an oppressor, it is about understanding the diverse collective history in the United States. Michigan students should be given an accurate account of Michigan and American histories. This is especially important because K-12 Education shapes the minds of our youth and they will eventually determine the future of this country.

This lack of understanding is particularly problematic to Tribal Nations whose history, such as ours, involves treaties and retained rights, ceded lands, colonization, Western expansion, to name a few; and this prohibition will lead to further lack of understanding and/or awareness of the twelve Tribal Nations within the State of Michigan.

The passage of SB 0460 would delegitimize our experiences as Waganakising Odawak and will only add to the feeling of exclusion, marginalization, and erasure that many of our children already encounter in the educational system.

For the above stated reasons, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe opposes the recently introduced Senate Bill S. 0460, Amendment to the "Revised School Code" that bans Critical Race Theory (CRT) from being taught in Schools and supports the teaching of an accurate account of Michigan and American histories.

A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office.

**Motion approved by Tribal Council on March 17, 2022 by:**

Emily Proctor, Legislative Leader  
Leroy Shomin, Treasurer  
Tamara Kiogima, Tribal Councilor  
William Ortiz, Tribal Councilor  
Marty Van De Car, Tribal Councilor

Marcella Reyes, Secretary  
Fred Kiogima, Tribal Councilor  
Aaron Otto, Tribal Councilor  
Melissa Pamp, Tribal Councilor  
Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Chair

