

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

2 INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS' PROCLAMATION OF 2019 AS THE
6 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES.

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8 WHEREAS, Montana is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of American Indian cultural
9 integrity; and

10 WHEREAS, language in the form of spoken, written, or sign language is foundational to cultural integrity;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Montana tribal languages and the languages of other Indigenous peoples around the United
13 States and world are endangered by the loss of native speakers, writers, and signers; and

14 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to continue to preserve, promote, and revitalize endangered
15 Indigenous languages to not only ensure their transmittal to future generations but also the transmittal of
16 Indigenous histories, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems, and literature.

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18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 STATE OF MONTANA:

20 That the 66th Legislature of the State of Montana strongly supports the United Nations' proclamation of
21 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous
22 languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize, and promote them, including as an educational medium,
23 at national and international levels.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 66th Legislature is committed to the continued preservation of
25 tribal languages in Montana and urges all state agencies to take appropriate steps, when applicable, to support
26 the preservation, revitalization, and promotion of these valued languages and cultures.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of state send a copy of this resolution to the
28 secretary-general of the United Nations, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, each tribal
29 government located on the seven Montana reservations and the Little Shell Chippewa tribe, the governor of
30 Montana, and the head of each state agency in Montana.

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