



National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS)

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NATIONAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTS THE CALL FOR A PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE PROHIBITING DISPLAY OF WASHINGTON "REDSKINS" PARAPHERNALIA IN ALL FEDERAL FACILITIES

WASHINGTON, DC – On September 11, 2013, leaders of the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS) signed a joint letter addressed to President Obama and to Acting Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Secretary Elaine Kaplan seeking a Presidential Directive prohibiting Washington "Redskins" paraphernalia from being displayed in all Federal facilities nationwide.

NCEPS is a national coalition of seven non-profit affinity organizations including Blacks in Government (BIG), Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE), Federally Employed Women (FEW), National Image Inc., Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), Federal Employees with Disabilities (FEDS) and FEDQ, promoting diversity and equity for all federal public servants.

The NCEPS letter to Obama and OPM supports a Resolution adopted at the BIG Annual National Training Conference in Dallas, TX. The Resolution and letter can be viewed at www.bignet.org for details why the term "Redskins" and the team's associated mascot is offensive not only to Native Americans, but to informed citizens. The BIG resolution and NCEPS letter demonstrates solidarity of the diverse brother and sister organizations calling for a Presidential directive prohibiting display of Redskins paraphernalia in all federal facilities.

The term "redskins" is known by many as a historical reference to their scalps being treated as proof for bounty much like animal pelts. It is not an honored reference to a warrior culture as some uninformed would have the American public believe, but a modern day continuation of a long-hated racial slur. The stereotypic caricature of the Redskins mascot adds further insult.

NCEPS President Sylvia Chavez said, "For too long, many have remained silent on what is so offensive to our Native American brothers and sisters in the federal workplace. We hope President Obama and his administration will implement this ban and champion this issue of diversity, equity and inclusion, as it has so many times before."

Blacks in Government (BIG) National President Darlene Young, said "This Resolution was the right thing to do by BIG and I am proud to be a part of this initiative in solidarity with our Native American coworkers."

NCEPS plans to conduct a major Press Conference at the National Press Club with invited guests for Q&A addressing this issue with the American public.