



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

JONATHAN HECHT  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

29<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLESEX DISTRICT  
WATERTOWN • CAMBRIDGE

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 22

Committees:

Children, Families & Persons with Disabilities

Municipalities and Regional Government

Transportation

Public Health

TEL (617) 722-2140  
Jonathan.Hecht@MAhouse.gov

September 25, 2020

Honorable Robert A. DeLeo  
Speaker of the House  
State House Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo,

I write respectfully in support of S.2848 (formerly H.2776/S.1877), *A Resolve providing for the creation of a special commission relative to the seal and motto of the Commonwealth.*

The current seal of the Commonwealth, with its stylized depiction of a Native American and images of violence and subjugation, is offensive to Native Americans and inconsistent with our state's contemporary commitment to peace, equality, and justice. The time is right to examine changes to it.

This resolve does not dictate by legislation how the future flag and seal should look – it will set up a commission to study the flag and seal, recommend an educational program on its significance, and examine the cost of making any changes. No costs would be incurred now by establishing this special commission. The commission would be an appropriate mechanism for undertaking a thoughtful revision of this important state symbol.

I hope that the House can vote on and pass this resolve this session. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With best regards,

Jonathan Hecht  
State Representative  
29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

Cc: Chair Aaron Michlewitz, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Chair Danielle Gregoire, Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight