



OFFICE OF

No. SB 429

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

May 1, 2023

TIME SIGNED: 6:15 pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 429:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 429.

Enrolled Senate Bill 429 would require public school districts, public charter schools, technology center schools, and institutions within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to allow enrolled students to wear tribal regalia during the school's official graduation ceremonies.

School districts or institutions should be able to set the dress code at their institutions' official graduation ceremonies. In other words, if schools want to allow their students to wear tribal regalia at graduation, good on them; but if schools prefer for their students to wear only traditional cap and gown, the Legislature shouldn't stand in their way.

Moreover, pursuant to Article V, Section 46 of the Oklahoma Constitution, the Legislature cannot pass special laws regulating school districts applicable to one person or class of persons. Should this bill become law, the proverbial Pandora's box will be opened for other groups to go over the heads of local superintendents and demand special favor to wear whatever they please at a formal ceremony. Simply put, this decision rests with local school districts, not state government.

Lastly, as a point of clarification, nothing in current state law prevents a school from allowing students to wear tribal regalia at their graduation ceremonies.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 429.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA



Delivered to SENATE by: James Curry
Date/Time: 5/1/23, 7:33 pm

SENATE:
By Becky Welch
Date/Time 5-1-23 7:35pm

7:40
RECEIVED

MAY 1 2023

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE