



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

To: Media
From: Little People of America (LPA)
Re: Hurley's Mascot Change

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **January 23, 2019**

LPA Applauds the End of the 'Midget' Mascot

Sonoma, CA – LPA congratulates the Hurley School District School Board, who unanimously voted to discontinue the use of the high school's Midgets mascot on Monday, January 21, 2019. We know it is difficult to let go of a long tradition, and wish to commend the School Board members for making this brave decision. We are excited for the children of the Hurley to begin a new era of school and community spirit with a mascot that embodies the dignity and honor of Hurley that all can be proud to cheer for.

With Hurley's decision, there are still five schools in the United States that use "Midgets" as their mascot. The term is considered highly derogatory and offensive to the dwarfism community. Originally developed in the side-show era, the term has evolved over the years into an objectifying word denying those of short stature the dignity deserved of all individuals. We offer our support to those other schools faced with a similar decision, and we hope that they will follow the courageous lead made by Hurley School District.