

January 31, 2019

TO: Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

RE: HB 19-1056

This statement is in support of HB19-1056.

As a long time election reform advocate, I am in support of Election Day as a holiday for all the reasons listed in the bill.

I also support this bill because it gets rid of a holiday that celebrates one of the worst perpetrators of genocide in history. By recognizing that Columbus was not the hero he was purported to be we can recognize the racism that this holiday represents.

As a child in school I was taught the false history of Columbus. I have come to know the true history of his savagery in the slaughter of Indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere. I think that it is important to teach our children the truth of our history. By knowing the truth, children have the chance to grow to adulthood without the racist teachings associated with Columbus Day. This is a way to start to heal the racial divides that keep our country from becoming the nation of equality that we aspire to.

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