

Opposing the Changing of 'Columbus Day' to 'Indigenous People's Day'

By Dominic LoSasso

Re: HB16-1135

Madam Chair, Mr. Chair Salazar, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Dominic LoSasso and I'm the State President of the Order Sons of Italy in America. I am here to oppose this bill because I feel this a day that Italian Americans not only celebrate Christofro Columbo but their Italian heritage and Italy's accomplishments and influence in our country.

In 1907, Colorado was the first state to celebrate Christofro Columbo's voyage to the new world. His achievement set the wheels of progress in motion for North America. As an Italian American I celebrate not only Columbus on this day but the countless number of other Italians that have made a contribution to not only my state but the world. Names like Meucci, Marconi and da Vinci. No one can deny that like many other nationalities, Italians have without a doubt contributed to America's success and done their part to get us to where we are today.

The Order Sons of Italy in America was formed in 1905 by Dr. Vincent Sellaro who wanted to bring together those of Italian decent and help them find their place in America. We didn't try to take it over, we worked together with other nationalities to better our country and community. That's what's made America what it is today.

Other nationalities have their days of celebration. Columbus Day is ours. Not Italian Pride Day. Not Indigenous People's Day. History cannot be re-written or remembered differently. Columbus Day was created for a reason and should be celebrated as such indefinitely.