

Madame Chairwoman and members of this committee.

My name is Keith Green. I am member of a Catholic fraternal organization called the Knights of Columbus. Our organization was named in honor of Christopher Columbus. We perform charitable works within the community, like providing underprivileged kids with coats, and other works of mercy. I'm Past Grand Knight Senior officer in the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus

I, along with many of my fellow brothers, strongly oppose HB0895. Eliminating Columbus Day would set a precedent to attack all flawed historical figures who have also made notable contributions to our country—such as George Washington, for example, for enabling the institution of slavery, despite him fighting for our nation's independence. It would mean also denouncing Francis Scott Key, who wrote the star-spangled banner, for his extreme views on slavery and being an anti-abolitionist or even changing the name of the Republic of Colombia, which is named in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In conclusion, to abolish Columbus Day is pointless. I'm certain that a separate day for Indigenous Peoples' Day can be created so that the two celebrations can peacefully co-exist with one another so this debate can finally come to an end.