

SB0421 Indigenous Peoples' Day - Rule of Interpretation and Replacement of Columbus Day

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to offer my support for SB0421 renaming “Columbus” day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day. For far too long the United States has allowed one community to hold this day hostage, and that needs to cease. There are many facts driving my support for this bill, and the strongest of which is the fact that Christopher Columbus was a terrorist. He was sent forth by Spain to conquer and pillage areas already occupied with human beings. The fact that these human beings had a darker hue to their skin caused him to believe false things about them. Christopher Columbus also NEVER made it to the Continental United States, so it is beyond me why the Italian-American community attempts to commemorate and “celebrate” him in such a manner. In the scheme of a timeline for conquest, colonization, and then immigration to the U.S., the Italian people were some of the last groups of people to even reach the shores at various harbor points. Many people from Italy would come and do work on buildings and bridges, and simply go back to Italy when it was too cold to work or there wasn’t any work. They didn’t really begin settling in parts of the U.S. until the late 1800s, yet they demand to have a National holiday to celebrate the quite FICTITIOUS and fake “accomplishments” of a person that tortured, raped, and pillaged his way through the Caribbean Islands. Columbus is a monster that should certainly be taught in history classes, but not in the manner in which he’s “celebrated” today. He definitely does not belong having a National Holiday, Statues, and roads named after him. I can’t imagine the pain that Native People feel when their ancestors not only had land stripped from them and their families brutalized and murdered to have to think about the fact that U.S. citizens glorify a colonizer in such a manner. We need to end the era of glorifying, celebrating, and deifying people who are quite frankly not worthy of the honor. It is long past time for this Holiday to be renamed Indigenous Peoples’ Day. The very word “holiday” is a combination of “holy” and “day”. There was nothing “holy” about the actions of Christopher Columbus. Now is the time to change that.

Thank you.

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