

To: The Senate Committee on Government Affairs

Subj: Indigenous People's Day, AB144

Recommendation: **Oppose AB144**

Dear Senate Government Affairs Committee:

As a fourth generation Italian in the United States, my relatives and I are disturbed that you are attempting to "do away with" Columbus Day, typically the second Monday in October. This celebration of Christopher Columbus' monumental voyage to the New World has been celebrated in this country since 1971.

As a student of anthropology and our country's history I recognize the fact that indigenous peoples have been abused by settlers from other races. This does not detract from the fact that Christopher Columbus completed an amazing journey across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492. Columbus Day is an opportunity for those of Italian descent and those who recognize amazing historical achievements to celebrate the place this man has in our history.

Columbus' actions were commensurate with those of his peers at the time, we cannot project our enlightened views about equality to those who lived hundreds of years in our past. We cannot diminish his achievements.

We can celebrate both Columbus Day on the second Monday in October AND leave the recognition of Indigenous People's Day where it currently resides (August) in our calendar. Do not try to erase history!

Respectfully,

Nancy Carlson