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Barbara Hernandez
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 83rd DISTRICT

March 15th, 2021

Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark St. Suite 567
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern,

I, State Representative Barbara Hernandez, am writing to you in support of the proposal to formally change the name of the holiday currently titled "Columbus Day" and renaming it to "Indigenous Peoples' Day". I have supported this change in the Illinois legislature as a co-sponsor Rep. Ramirez's House Bill 5533, am formally encouraging Cook County to help lead the charge on enacting this change.

Columbus never set foot in the Americas at all, having sailed around between several islands in the Caribbean Sea instead. As such, American education too often describes Columbus as the beginning of American history, thereby ignoring the rich history of those that were here before. Moving away from the holiday named "Columbus Day" and instead transitioning to "Indigenous Peoples' Day" we can begin to highlight those that lived on these lands before us, and the changes they were forced to undergo as European settlers arrived.

It should be stated that this push to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day is not anti-Italian, as there are many Italian-Americans that are deserving of better recognition for what they have been able to provide to this country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Hernandez".

Barbara Hernandez
State Representative of the 83rd District