



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-5583, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OCTOBER AS ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, the first Italians came to Chicago and Cook County as early as the 1850s; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration of Italians peaked in the period 1900 to 1914, in Chicago, Cook County and the United States, reaching five million immigrants before World War I, with immigrants from all over Italy, but especially from Tuscany and the southern regions of Sicily, Puglia, Calabria and Naples; and

**WHEREAS**, the early Italian immigrants became cement and sewer workers, tailors and seamstresses, soldiers and sailors, barbers, grocers, bakers and cooks, as well as many other professions throughout our county; and

**WHEREAS**, Italian immigrants supported and helped grow the Archdiocese of Chicago, the second largest Roman Catholic archdiocese in the United States, with the addition of many priests and nuns, schools, hospitals and parishes throughout the city and suburban communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the first American Roman Catholic to be canonized was Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, an immigrant, who founded her religious order and two hospitals in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, various neighborhoods grew as a result of Italians migrating to Chicago, in every part of the city, and later in various suburban communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Italian American restaurants, music, art and culture flourish in our city, its suburbs and the county; and

**WHEREAS**, many Italian American clubs, associations and organizations developed and continue to thrive in our city, county and region, under the “umbrella” of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, promoting religion, culture, the arts, sports, cuisine, and everything Italian and American; and

**WHEREAS**, today Italian Americans play a vital role in the quality of life in Chicago, Cook County and Illinois, in a variety of corporate board rooms, in journalism, government, public safety and service, sports and social life; and

**WHEREAS**, Columbus Day, a federal and state holiday, is celebrated in October; and

**WHEREAS**, Italian Americans have proudly and successfully integrated into the American way of life in Cook County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby designate October as Italian American Heritage Month in Cook County, Illinois.