



Good afternoon all,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is Alisa DiGiacomo; I am a fifth-generation Italian American in Colorado and a resident of Jefferson County. I am here today in support of replacing Columbus Day as a Colorado state holiday with Francis Xavier Cabrini Day.

For months now, I have visited with individuals both for and against this idea, including members of the Hispanic, Chicano, Latino, American Indian, African American, Vietnamese, Irish American and Italian American communities. Thru personal connection and conversation, each exchange has been respectful, dynamic and in the end, positive. Instead of division, I have found solidarity in the desire to honor those who have come before us and the ways in which our ancestor's sacrifices and achievements have shaped our lives today. Likewise, all have hope that our children and grandchildren will remember and appreciate the choices and opportunities they have, as afforded them by the hard work and sacrifice of the generations before them.

For those that may be unaware of her life and legacy, Francis Xavier Cabrini was born in Italy in 1850. In 1889, she came to the United States to help immigrants in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn. Three years later, she arrived in Colorado to help Denver's poor Italian immigrants. After establishing a convent and school in the heart of Denver's Little Italy, she built the Queen of Heaven Orphanage and later a summer camp for orphan's, today known as Mother Cabrini Shrine. Colorado's shrine is one of three in the United States with a second in New York and the third in Chicago.

In addition, to her works in Colorado, New York and Chicago, Francis Xavier Cabrini established institutions in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Mississippi, Washington State and California. She was a champion of immigrants and the poor. During her lifetime, there were many orphaned children and sick people with no place to turn and she cared for them. Many were uneducated, and she established schools for them. Her social service and outreach programs included industrial arts lessons for young women, visits to city hospital wards, jails, prisons, mines and plantations. Cabrini did this primarily with volunteers and private donations.

So why does Francis Xavier Cabrini deserve a day of recognition as a Colorado state holiday over others? The answer in part is timing. The time has come to add a woman to the list of state holidays for Colorado. A woman with a direct connection to Colorado, a woman that represents the voices of many diverse individuals and communities, and a humanitarian whose life and work have the power to inspire and influence positive change now and in the future.

Cabrini Day also offers a way for Colorado to let go of past conflicts. While other ideas have come and gone as a means to address the divisive views of Coloradans in October, Cabrini Day is resonating with many. Although not a perfect solution, Cabrini Day is a strong compromise. One that is welcoming and allows many more individuals to celebrate. Cabrini Day is an opportunity in the present to continue the good works of Frances Xavier Cabrini. It is a positive path forward, and it has the potential to make Colorado better for all who live here and those that visit our beautiful state.

Image a day filled with community service and fun, culminated by a feast with foods from many cultures and multiple voices sharing stories of pride for where they come from, who has

influenced and shaped their lives and what their hopes for the future might be. A day of conversation. A day of kindness, compassion and community.

It is for these reasons, that I support the establishment of Francis Xavier Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, and that I respectfully request your support to establish Cabrini Day as a holiday that welcomes and celebrates the many diverse people and histories in Colorado. A day that encourages us to find the various ways that our own communities and traditions coincide with Francis Xavier Cabrini's message of kindness and compassion. A day of goodwill, tolerance and respect for the heritage and culture of others. A day to make us stronger by acknowledging our uniqueness and celebrating our common roots.

Alisa DiGiacomo

March 3, 2020

February 2, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

I am writing to request your support for the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day in our state. I believe the establishment of Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, observed on the first Monday of October annually, is an opportunity to bring Colorado together to celebrate kindness, compassion and community in Colorado.

As an active member of Colorado's Irish American community I welcome the opportunity to celebrate my heritage with others. I am also an active member of my parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and appreciate the potential for the ways in which my parish could participate, including with other Colorado parishes and denominations.

Please do what you can, in your capacity, to make sure this important issue gets the attention and support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day. Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Zahller
4515 W 61st Place
Arvada, Colorado 80003
creideamh@hotmail.com



January 9, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

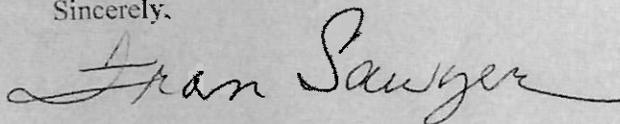
RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace
Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

As a native of Colorado and of Italian decent. I am writing to request your support for the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day in our state. I want to see continued pride in recognizing and remembering Italian heritage. However, I totally support inclusion of others. I believe establishment of Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, observed on the first Monday of October could be the catalyst to unite and celebrate diversity. It is my hope that the annual celebration could bring Coloradoan's together to celebrate both Italian heritage and that of all individuals as proud Americans.

Please do what you can to make sure this issue gets the attention and support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day. As an Italian American, it is time to cement a unified day to celebrate ancestry for my grandchildren, and the decedents of all Coloradoan's. Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Name Fran Sawyer
Address 6095 W 46^m Ave, Wheat Ridge Colo 80033
Email flsja3@aol.com
Phone 303-504-5569

January 9, 2020

ane Benavidez

The Honorable Representative
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 e
Colorado dez,

of a new state holiday in place of Columbus Day; Cabrini Day

Dear Rep, the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day is the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday, a day of October annually is an opportunity to bring Colorado together to with passion and community in Colorado.

I am an Italian American in Colorado, active in my community, a historian, parent and civic. With regards to Columbus Day, my concerns stem from a desire to replace it with a worthy and honorable representative that can truly highlight the significant contributions by Italian Americans to our state.

Columbus Day for many years now, has been a serious point of contention, one that has divided Colorado. Cabrini Day as imagined by a number of Colorado Italian Americans, has the potential to unite Colorado. A celebration not only of Italian heritage and legacy, Cabrini Day offers the opportunity to celebrate all of the cultures in our state. By celebrating many cultures, the potential for discovering commonalities in our community. Commonality based on a shared desire to honor where we are today and how we can work together for a better future.

Cabrini Day as imagined celebrates an immigrant, naturalized in Colorado, a woman (the first to be on Colorado's state holiday list) and perhaps most important, a humanitarian who set a beautiful example for others thru her desire to help, educate and in general uplift those in need. I can imagine a day that I personally would want to participate in. One that brings together a community to celebrate the state's largest naturalization ceremony, followed by a fun run whose proceeds support those in need and a community gathering that offers Coloradans the opportunity to meet and share stories about the communities and families they come from. A day promoting kindness and compassion. A day of service and giving back. A day promoting the things we have in common. A day to unite Colorado. Cabrini Day.

Please do what you can, in your capacity, to make sure this important issue gets the attention and

support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day.
Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alisa DiGiacomo".

Alisa DiGiacomo, co-committee chair, Coloradans for Cabrini Day
6089 Quail Street
Arvada, Colorado 80004
alias.digiacomoco@gmail.com
(303) 408-0873

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

I am writing to request your support for the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day in our state. I believe the establishment of Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, observed on the first Monday of October annually, is an opportunity to bring Colorado together to celebrate kindness, compassion and community in Colorado.

A Colorado resident with Hispanic heritage, Mother Cabrini holds a special place for me as my grandmother felt a personal connection with her. I welcome the opportunity to remember my grandmother and celebrate her life with my children and others on Cabrini Day. This is the right path forward. A day to acknowledge Colorado's commonality, while celebrating our uniqueness sounds wonderful.

Please do what you can, in your capacity, to make sure this important issue gets the attention and support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day. Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Paul Rodriguez Sr.
5604 Kipling Parkway, Unit 104
Arvada, Colorado 80004
paul@coloradodesignlab.com
(303) 475-1272

February 1, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

I am writing to request your support for the replacement of Columbus Day with Cabrini Day as a Colorado State holiday to be observed annually on the first Monday of October.

I have taught for thirty- five years and nearly every year taught a course on American Immigration History. I have seen the enthusiasm students have to learn about their heritage and the overall immigration picture of our country. Over the years we have witnessed the growing dissension over the observance of Columbus Day. Rather than a celebration for Italians and their rich heritage it has become a point of anger and contention. Italian culture would be much better represented by the compassionate and humanitarian figure of Mother Cabrini. This could be an occasion for the community to come together and share immigrant stories of all ethnicities through a variety of activities. Mother Cabrini is a symbol of kindness, generosity, and love for people of all ethnic backgrounds for she did not limit her good works to just those of Italian background. I therefore heartily support the effort to replace Columbus Day with Cabrini Day and urge you to move this proposal forward in the state legislature by whatever process is appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Janet E. Worrall
Professor Emerita
University of Northern Colorado
jeworrall@hotmail.com
720.450.4725

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace
Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

I am writing to request your support for the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day in our state. I believe the establishment of Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, observed on the first Monday of October annually, is an opportunity to bring Colorado together to celebrate kindness, compassion and community in Colorado...an opportunity for our State to recognize and embrace a positive legacy.

This subject is important to me because I am not only a native of Colorado, but also a retired federal employee and a 5th generation Italian American who has studied the history of Columbus' voyages as well as the history of Native Americans and the genocidal aftermath suffered by various indigenous people resulting from the voyages of Christopher Columbus. Although some can argue that honoring this day recognizes the beginning of the cultural exchange between Europe and America, many others can argue this time is actually an extremely dark chapter in American and European history. Christopher Columbus was no hero to be admired.

For our great state to alternatively recognize Cabrini Day would mean recognizing the humanitarian actions of a true historical hero who had direct connections to our state. Cabrini Day would provide the opportunity to recognize these connections and Mother Cabrini's endless humanitarian work with immigrants, the poor and those in need. Cabrini Day would be one bringing together the many cultures within our state; a day of unity, kindness, respect and compassion for all our cultures.

Please do what you can, in your capacity, to make sure this important issue gets the attention and support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day. Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Doreen McNicholas



16988 W. 73 PL
Arvada, CO 80007
doreenmcnicholas@gmail.com
303-8777-3688

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

I am writing to request your support for the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day in our state. I believe the establishment of Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, observed on the first Monday of October annually, is an opportunity to bring Colorado together to celebrate kindness, compassion and community in Colorado.

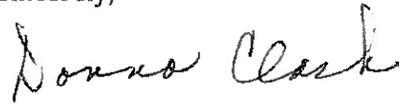
I am a 4th generation Italian American, active in my community and a concerned citizen. With regards to Columbus Day, my concerns stem from a desire to remove Columbus as the Italian American representative. To remove the harm Columbus brings, and replace it with a worthy and honorable representative, that can truly highlight the positive and significant contributions by Italian Americans to our state.

Columbus Day for many years now, has been a serious point of contention, one that continues to divide Colorado. Cabrini Day as imagined by a number of Colorado Italian Americans (and others), has the potential to unite Colorado. A celebration of not only Italian American culture, heritage and legacy, Cabrini Day offers the opportunity to celebrate all rich cultures in our state. By celebrating many cultures, the potential for discovering commonality arises in our community. Commonality based on a shared desire to honor where we come from, who we are today and how we can work together for a better future.

Cabrini Day as imagined would celebrate an immigrant—naturalized in Colorado—a woman (the first to join the men on Colorado's state holiday list) and perhaps most important, a humanitarian who set a beautiful example for others thru her desire to help, educate and in general uplift those in need. I can imagine a day that I personally would want to participate in. One that brings together a community to celebrate the state's largest naturalization ceremony, followed by a fun run with proceeds supporting those in need, and a community gathering that offers Coloradans the opportunity to meet and share stories about the communities and families they come from. A day promoting kindness and compassion. A day of service and giving back. A day promoting the things we have in common. A day to unite Colorado. Cabrini Day.

Please do what you can, in your capacity, to make sure this important issue gets the attention and support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day. Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Clark".

Donna Clark
321 Deer Crossing
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104
svenenter@aol.com
(303) 956-4283

January 9, 2020

The Honorable Representative Adrienne Benavidez
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax, RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States
(303) 866-2964

RE: HB20-1031 establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado as a state holiday to replace Columbus Day

Dear Representative Benavidez,

I am writing to request your support for the establishment of Cabrini Day in Colorado in place of Columbus Day in our state. I believe the establishment of Cabrini Day as a Colorado state holiday, observed on the first Monday of October annually, is an opportunity to bring Colorado together to celebrate kindness, compassion and community.

The life and impact of Mother Cabrini has been deeply meaningful and an inspiration to my family for generations. I believe celebrating her life story and influence is beneficial to all caring citizens of Colorado. This request to remove Columbus as the Italian American representative and replace it with an honorable representative, is a positive, proactive approach that all Coloradoans can unite with rather than avoid something that has become increasingly controversial. Having a day centered around promoting kindness, compassion, service and giving back, is something we can all be proud of. A day to remember a life well lived and unite Colorado under the same passion of spirit.

Please do what you can, in your capacity, to make sure this important issue gets the attention and support it deserves. I truly believe now is the time for Cabrini Day to replace Columbus Day. Please act now and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Del Hierro
2022 N High St.
Denver co. 80205
cdelhierro@confluenceministries.org
303-898-4492

03/02/20

Since 1992 as a state Representative and State senator from Adams County I worked to uphold Columbus Day as a state and national holiday. I was honored to recognize Senator Casimiro Berelo a Hispanic and Angelo Noce an Italian; working together to make Colorado the first in the nation to make Columbus Day a state holiday.

I stood with all Colorado citizens to preserve history while in office and we proudly celebrated the 100th anniversary of this historical holiday in 2007.

Rep Benavidez now represents Adams county. I do not know why she wants to disregard the legacy of Senator Berelo, he helped write the Colorado constitution and served as a state senator for nearly 40 years. Who worked with all Coloradans to make history, just to make a legacy for herself. It is unacceptable to use Mother Cabrini's legacy as a revered saint; it is disrespectful to use Mother Cabrini as the reason to do away with Columbus Day.

Alice Nichol

Former Democratic Colorado State Senator