

# 5 LIES ABOUT REPEALING COLUMBUS DAY

## 1 "REPEALING COLUMBUS DAY UNDERMINES THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY"

House Bill 20-1031 replaces Columbus Day with Cabrini Day, which recognizes Italian immigrant Frances Xavier Cabrini and her contributions to immigrants, the poor, and children in Denver and Golden. Repealing Columbus Day enables us to visibilize the positive achievements of Italians and Italian-Americans in Colorado.

## 2 "REPEALING COLUMBUS DAY IS RE-WRITING HISTORY"

It is common-knowledge that Columbus did not "discover" what is now known as the Americas, and that Indigenous Peoples were already inhabiting the region. What is not common knowledge is that Columbus initiated the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, that 100 million people inhabited the Americas in 1492, or that 5 million Tainos died within the first three years of Columbus' invasion. Repealing Columbus Day is an opportunity to re-learn the true history of colonization and of Indigenous Peoples.

## 3 "REPEALING COLUMBUS DAY IS TOO POLITICALLY CORRECT"

Columbus should not be celebrated for the same reasons that Nazi Germany and South African Apartheid should not be celebrated. Repealing Columbus Day reflects the need to both critically analyze historical atrocities and acknowledge the danger in dismissing those atrocities.

## 4 "NO ONE CARES ABOUT REPEALING COLUMBUS DAY"

The Transform Columbus Day Alliance, an international coalition of over 80 social-justice organizations, has advocated for the repeal of Columbus Day in Colorado since 1989. As of 2016, Denver, Durango, and Boulder no longer observe Columbus Day. Nationally, only 22 out of 50 states observe the holiday. Repealing Columbus Day will offer Colorado an opportunity to join this growing movement to reject a symbol that glorifies the colonization of Indigenous Peoples.

## 5 "COLUMBUS HAPPENED SO LONG AGO"

The legacy of Columbus is re-affirmed every time incorrect histories are taught in the classroom, every time an Indigenous woman or girl is murdered or goes missing, every time an Indigenous Nation is invaded for natural resources, and every time people of color are told to "get over" centuries of colonization, genocide, and slavery. Repealing Columbus Day is one action Colorado can take to help undo narratives on the holiday that continue to harm our communities to this day.



[transformcolumbusday.org](http://transformcolumbusday.org)

 Transform Columbus Day Denver