

House Bill 179 - FAVORABLE
Health and Government Operations Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee;

I urge you to give House Bill 179, regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day, a Favorable report.

There is no good reason to celebrate Christopher Columbus. Columbus never even set foot on North America. He enslaved, mutilated, trafficked in women and **children** to be raped, and killed the people already living where he did land. Columbus even had some of their dismembered bodies paraded through the street.

Legislators who truly oppose these actions cannot defend Columbus. By no longer celebrating Columbus Day, we refuse to celebrate slavery, mutilation, rape, and murder. By holding onto the idea that we're somehow erasing history by no longer celebrating Columbus, we continue to erase the true history of Columbus and ignore the atrocities he committed.

"Indigenous peoples" includes the many different peoples that actually lived in America. Indigenous Peoples' Day helps to bring attention to the cultures, histories, and continued existence of those peoples. Let's recognize the effects those peoples have had and continue to have in this country.

I hope that you demonstrate integrity by giving House Bill 179 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD