

House Bill 179 - FAVORABLE
Health and Government Operations Committee

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

We, the Steering Committee of One Pasadena, urge you to give House Bill 179, regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day, a favorable report.

As a group formed to address a culture of racism, many of us have learned about the indigenous peoples who have lived in our area. We continue to work to understand the impacts that those peoples have had in Pasadena, Anne Arundel County, and Maryland as a whole.

As an antiracist group, we have also consistently stood in opposition to Christopher Columbus's white supremacist and absolutely horrifying treatment of the native peoples' in the places that he actually visited. This is not a man who should be in any way celebrated. We should tell the true history of Columbus, and can do so in many educational settings, but we don't need a holiday for that. By honoring Columbus and by denying the experiences of indigenous peoples, we ignore the atrocities and destruction that Columbus perpetuated.

Please give House Bill 179 a favorable report. We appreciate your consideration of this bill and of our testimony.

Sincerely,
One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, MD