

Columbus Day Rename Template Letter

Dear _____,

My name is _____. My child attends _____. I write today because I just learned that you will be referring to October 11 as “Indigenous People’s Day.”

By federal law, the first Monday in October is designated as Columbus Day. This holiday is important not only to Italian Americans, who view Columbus as a symbol of ethnic pride, but also to [Latinos](#), whose culture was born from the Spanish colonization of this hemisphere. It is precisely because this holiday is important to both of these ethnic groups that both Hispanic Heritage month (September 15 - October 15) and Italian American Heritage Month (October) incorporate the occasion.

But Columbus is more than a symbol of pride for Italians and Latinos. As the [“first immigrant,”](#) he is a symbol of all those who come to America in search of something more. As President Ronald Reagan once noted, Columbus Day is “a day to celebrate not only an intrepid searcher but the dreams and opportunities that brought so many here after him and all that they and all immigrants have given to this land.”

By dishonoring Columbus, we dishonor immigrants. Indeed, this was the intention of 1920s-era [Ku Klux Klan](#), which spread anti-Columbus propaganda as a way to slander and target Catholic newcomers from southern Europe.

So, while I welcome the opportunity to celebrate native cultures and traditions, I must object when someone unilaterally alters the name of a federally designated holiday of great importance to other American ethnic groups and to all immigrants to the U.S.

Warmly,

Name