



DATE: 28 January 2019



TO. **Honorable Representatives -**
*Chris Kennedy (Chair), Sonya Jaquez Lewis (Vice-Chair),
Monica Duran, Stephen Humphrey, Susan Lontine, Jovan Melton, Janice
Rich, Emily Sirota, Dave Williams, Adrienne Benavidez, Julie Gonzales*

RE. **House Bill 19-1056**

Honorable Representatives,

Regarding pending **HB 19-1056** – we encourage you to give due consideration to the following,

- **Columbus Day** is a national holiday and State holiday which has been celebrated now for more than 115 years by all Coloradans and Americans regardless of their heritage,
- The need for a specific Colorado holiday for voting is questionable as demonstrated by actual voting statistics showing that -
 - In 2018 - Colorado had the 2nd highest voter turnout in the Nation
 - In 2016 - 93% of voters **voted via Mail-In Ballots**
 - Current law (CRS 1-7-102) provides for up to two hours of paid leave for All voters on election day which occurs generally every two years, not annually, *therefore*
 - Granting a full day holiday in off election years would be a waste, i.e. - an election day holiday without an election
- HB 19-1056 essentially provides an election day holiday which benefit only a small portion of State workers,
- **All** Colorado workers including those for the State currently enjoy the traditional 3-day holiday break over the Columbus Day weekend in October, meaning that taking away that holiday from Colorado workers in exchange for a Tuesday holiday every other year just a few weeks before the Thanksgiving holiday, will not be well received nor is it in the best of Colorado workers or their families
- Lastly, the opening declaration in HB 19-1056 - *“eliminating the Columbus Day holiday does not take away from the recognition of the Italian-American community and its contributions to the state”* is a false and misleading statement, without any basis in fact.

The work of legislators is expected to be focused upon efforts that benefit **All Coloradoans**, not a subset thereof, and not at the expense or penalty of another. This Bill is not in the best interest of All of the People of Colorado – we encourage you to **not support** HB 19-1056 nor any Bill which seeks to divide Coloradans against each other –



OSDIA
Grand Lodge
of Colorado



DA
Dante Alighieri Society
of Pueblo

MOTHER CABRINI LODGE 2826



John L. Carochi
John Carochi, President
Colorado Grand Lodge
OSDIA



Gino Carleo
Gino Carleo, President
Sons of Italy Lodge # 2738
(Pueblo)

William Scutti
William Scutti, President
Sons of Italy Lodge # 2866
(Canon City)

Kevin A. Cairra
Kevin A. Cairra, National President
Commission for Social Justice
OSDIA

Fred Marzano
Fred Marzano, President
Sons of Italy Lodge #2075
(Denver)

Mark F. Fini
Mark Fini, President
Sons of Italy Lodge #2870
(Colorado Springs)

Rich SaBell
Rich SaBell, Chair
Commission for Social Justice
Colorado 1st Vice President
Sons of Italy Grand Lodge

Mary Beth Corsentino
Mary Beth Corsentino,
President
Columbian Federation



Gerald L. Carleo
Gerald L. Carleo, Chair
Colorado Italian American
Foundation

Michael A. Salardino
Michael Salardino, President
Dante Alighieri Society

Rita DeFrango Representative
Commission for Social Justice
(Colorado)