

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.182

Reps. Cavanagh, Rabhi, Scott, Morse, Young, Rogers, Tate, Weiss, Camilleri, Breen, Hope, Tyrone Carter, O'Neal, Steckloff, Garza, Brabec, Ellison, Sneller, Stone, Brenda Carter, Kuppa, Brixie, Thanedar, Coleman, Clemente, Aiyash, Pohutsky, Manoogian, Bolden, Hammoud, Puri, Cherry, Peterson, Witwer, LaGrand, Anthony and Yancey offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare October 11, 2021, as Indigenous
2 Peoples' Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The state of Michigan understands that in order to
4 help close the equity gap, government entities should change their
5 policies and practices to better reflect and uplift the
6 experiences, culture, history, and contributions of the people they
7 serve; and

8 Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes that Columbus Day

1 has been viewed by many as a celebration of our country's rich
2 immigrant and, in particular, Italian and Catholic heritage; and

3 Whereas, Recognizing the valuable contributions of immigrants
4 to our history is important, it should not come at the expense of
5 recognizing the experiences of the Indigenous people of the
6 American continent; and

7 Whereas, Michigan honors the 12 federally recognized tribes
8 and many more tribally recognized tribes native to this land and
9 acknowledges the people, land, traditions, and customs stolen by
10 colonial systems through government practices of forced separation,
11 forced assimilation, and forced removal; and

12 Whereas, The idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first
13 proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United
14 Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination
15 Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

16 Whereas, In 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous Nations
17 at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian
18 Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus
19 Day into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about pre-
20 existing indigenous cultures that have survived a violent
21 colonization process and continue to exist and thrive in present
22 day America; and

23 Whereas, The United States endorsed the United Declaration on
24 the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on December 16, 2010, and Article
25 15 of that declaration states "Indigenous peoples have the right to
26 the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories,
27 and aspirations, which shall be appropriately reflected in
28 education and public information. States should take effective
29 measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous

1 peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination
2 and to promote tolerance, understanding, and good relations among
3 Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society"; and

4 Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes the presence of the
5 three major groups in our state today, the Three Fires Confederacy,
6 the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi, collectively known as the
7 Anishinaabe who have lived upon this land since time immemorial,
8 and values the progress our society has accomplished through Native
9 American thought and culture; and

10 Whereas, The establishment of Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be
11 used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous peoples on
12 this land and to celebrate the thriving cultures and values that
13 the Anishinaabe of the Great Lakes and other indigenous peoples
14 contribute to society; and

15 Whereas, Many of our indigenous relatives and Tribal Nations
16 in the Michigan have contributed much to our state's success,
17 history, economy, politics, and cultural heritage, and there are
18 many things to be proud of as an indigenous person in Michigan; and

19 Whereas, Even the name Michigan is derived from the
20 Anishinaabemowin word michigami meaning "great lake," and there are
21 many other examples of how the Anishinaabe of the Great Lakes have
22 helped shape who we are as the state of Michigan, and

23 Whereas, The state of Alaska, the cities of Seattle,
24 Washington, Berkeley, California, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and many
25 more cities around the country including Traverse City, Ann Arbor,
26 East Lansing, and Alpena in Michigan have voted to rename Columbus
27 Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day to honor the culture, heritage, and
28 contributions of Native Americans; and

29 Whereas, On this second Monday of October, we should honor the

1 historic, cultural, and contemporary significance of Indigenous
2 peoples and their ancestral lands that also became known as the
3 Americas and celebrate their contributions to communities
4 throughout Michigan, the United States, and all over the world;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
7 this legislative body declare October 11, 2021, as Indigenous
8 Peoples' Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize this day in
9 lieu of Columbus Day to uplift our country's indigenous roots,
10 history, and contributions; and be it further

11 Resolved, That Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be used to
12 reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous people on this
13 land and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Odawa,
14 Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and other indigenous peoples add to communities
15 throughout Michigan and our Great Lakes region.