

Utah State Senate Rejects Removal of Columbus Day by Radical Democrats

The Utah State Senate has killed a bill that would have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016 the Senate voted 15-10 to defeat SB170, which would have made Columbus Day a state holiday to honor original Americans.

The bill had been favorably voted out of committee, advancing to the Senate on a 3-1 vote last week. Shawn Jimerson with the Urban Indian Center in Salt Lake City expressed the that Utah should be at the forefront of the charge to change the name due to the fact that the states name is derived from the Ute tribe. "The fact that our state was named for its original inhabitants should not be lost." Jimerson told lawmakers.

But before the full senate, Republican Allen Christensen called the bill "a slap in the face of Italian Americans." Utah is not known for its Italian American population. Christensen was also the lone opposing vote that passed the bill out of committee. He stated then, "I also feel that the way to lift yourselves up is not by tearing others down, and for that reason I will be opposing this bill."

Senator Jim Dabakis, a Democrat who sponsored the bill, countered, "Before Father Escalante got here, before the Mormon pioneers arrived, there weren't just people here. There was a thriving, incredible civilization that was here, and we do not pay tribute to that situation."

Senator Luz Escamilla pointed to other states abandonment of Columbus Day to recognize the "fabricated" genocide the explorer brought to the native people. She then lamented on Utah's reluctance to change in the past, "We tend to have this history of taking 20 years later to do what's right."

Escamilla may have been referring to Utah's reluctance to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In 2000, Utah became the last state to recognize MLK Day by name, renaming its Human Rights Day state