

**To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee, Representative John Barker, Chairman**  
**From: Carole Cadue-Blackwood, an enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas**  
**and a Lawrence, Kansas Resident**

**Date: February 4, 2019**

**Re: HB 2009- Indigenous People's Day**

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Good morning Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony in support of HB-2009. My name is Carole Cadue-Blackwood and I'm also a longtime resident of Lawrence, Kansas.

I'm here today to support the recognition of historical and cultural contributions of Indigenous Peoples here in Kansas. I would like to add that the *land* that we call Kansas has been home to numerous American Indian peoples. According to the Kansas Historical Society, nearly 30 tribes have historical ties and or resided in Kansas. Today, Kansas is home to four Indian reservations- the Iowa, Kickapoo, Prairie Band Potawatomi, and the Sac and Fox.

There are more than 70 cities and six states including Minnesota, Alaska, Vermont and Oregon have also replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. Hawaii celebrates Discoverer's Day on the Second Monday of October. South Dakota celebrates Native American Day.

Columbus, Ohio stopped observing "Columbus Day" last October in favor of Indigenous People's Day as a way of recognizing victims of colonialism.

Lawrence, Kansas passed resolution no. 7154 in October 2015 and became one of the earliest cities that recognized the second Monday of October annually as Indigenous People's Day. The city of Lawrence recognized the importance of Indigenous Peoples of Kansas and the Americas and noted that Indigenous peoples occupied these lands since time immemorial. It would greatly benefit Kansas's image to join the six states that already recognize Indigenous Peoples Day.

Today, we have seen how genocide has had devastating consequences not only for those who perish, but also for those of us who remain. In addition, cultural misrepresentations and stereotypes have contributed to the cultural demise of Native American communities. The passage of Indigenous Peoples Day can be a catalyst for healing and open doors for education and creating a better community.

It's important for us as Kansans to celebrate diversity, increase Native curriculum, break stereotypes and build bridges that everyone can cross.

*Miigwetch.* Thank you.

Carole Cadue-Blackwood