



**ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs  
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT  
Legislative Bill**

**Bill # 35**

**Referred to Committee:  
5**

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**Action on the Bill**

**Assembly**

**Senate**

\_\_\_  Passed

\_\_\_  Passed

\_\_\_  Defeated

\_\_\_  Defeated

**AN ACT TO: Rename Columbus Day**

**The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this bill is to rename Columbus Day

**Summary of Provision**

**Section 1:**

Columbus Day: a legal holiday commemorating the 'discovery' of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492. It is observed by most states on the second Monday of October.

**Section 2:**

Basically what we want to do is to rename Columbus Day because we feel like we shouldn't celebrate it the way it's intended to be celebrated: Conquering Indigenous People. Plus technically Columbus wasn't the first to find America since people were already inhabiting the place long before he got there and he was beaten by Vikings who found America way earlier. He thought he made it to India he returned later with more ships and men and conquered them with weapons and diseases. Instead of honoring this, this house believes we should honor the REAL Americans, the Indigenous Peoples.

**Justification**

When you think of Columbus Day you probably think of Columbus sailing the ocean and finding America proving the earth was round, since that is basically the reason why we celebrate the day. But that's exactly one of the reasons why we think we should change or rename Columbus Day. You see the things that are untrue about Columbus day is that he was the first man to discover America, this is untrue because this land was discovered long before Columbus was even born, there were even inhabitants when he was there .He could not have proved the earth was round because that was common knowledge. So the day's purpose is already mixed up. Another reason why we think that Columbus Day should be renamed or changed is because we're basically celebrating the cause of thousands of innocents lives taken away. You see as I said before there were inhabitants already there so when Columbus found America there were a lot of effects to this cause, mostly negative for the inhabitants. One effect was Europeans bringing diseases which already of the bat killed a lot of people. But they didn't just brought diseases. They brought greed with them, since Europeans wanted to get the jump on this new land they didn't really care which lives they had to destroy to get it. Basically what we're saying is that because of Columbus there was a lot of negative effects for the people indigenous to America who were enslaved and slaughtered. It teaches us to respect those who are different from us and to have empathy for those who look or act different.

**Fiscal Implications**

For this bill it wouldn't really cost much since we're just changing the name of a Holiday. So there isn't very financial problems with this bill. It would take time and in New York we would just call it a different name and we would still a day off. The people of New York would be encouraged to change

**Effective Date**

This bill would most likely be effective next second Monday of October since it's basically renaming the holiday.