



**House Rules Committee Subcommittee on Studies  
February 2, 2026**

HB 858

Legal holidays; replaces Columbus Day, the second Monday in October, with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The League of Women Voters has been a long-time supporter of this bill, and we hope that this year we can see it passed and signed into law. My Chairman, I am speaking as a second-generation person of one hundred percent Italian descent who attended many Columbus Day celebrations as a child. Christopher Columbus not only never set foot on continental American soil, but he was also not a man for whom we should be proud. He was not a "man of his time" – there were many people who did not kill, torture and enslave people in every period of human existence.

Let Virginia right this wrong and make this day to honor Indigenous People.