

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1014.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

HJR16-1009

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Salazar,

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Ulibarri,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1009

101 **CONCERNING DECLARING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2-8, 2016, AS**
102 **CHICANO HISTORY WEEK IN COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, The date that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was
2 signed, February 2, 1848, is commonly regarded as the birth date of
3 Chicanos; and

4 WHEREAS, People of Indigenous and Mexican origin and descent
5 have greatly contributed to the economy, development, and growth of this
6 state and the nation, serving the arts, business, media, industry,
7 agriculture, education, and society in myriad ways; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite being promised the rights of citizenship by
9 treaty, the early Mexican-Americans were stripped of their land, homes,
10 and property; and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 WHEREAS, The early Mexican-Americans faced seemingly
2 insurmountable hardships; their basic rights were denied, their language
3 and culture were suppressed, and their opportunities for employment,
4 education, and political representation were thwarted; and

5 WHEREAS, As with many national boundary changes resulting
6 from war treaties, the historical documentation of the early
7 Mexican-Americans was destroyed and their constitutional rights were
8 abrogated, leaving them stripped of their dignity, unique culture, and
9 recorded contributions to society; and

10 WHEREAS, The illusory superiority of the supposed conquerors
11 of the Mexican-American people resulted in the promotion of a
12 disparaging image of those of Mexican descent; and

13 WHEREAS, Chicanos recognize that they are the result of a
14 unique confluence of histories, cultures, languages, and traditions; and

15 WHEREAS, The State of Colorado served as a pivotal
16 battleground for Chicano rights starting in the 1960s that still continues
17 today; and

18 WHEREAS, Colorado's very own Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, a
19 world-renowned boxer, poet, and political activist, founded the Crusade
20 for Justice and convened the first-ever national Chicano Youth
21 Leadership Conference in March 1969; and

22 WHEREAS, From the Conference came El Plan Espiritual de
23 Aztlan, a manifesto demanding self-determination for Chicanos; and

24 WHEREAS, Gonzales also released the internationally and
25 critically acclaimed poem "Yo Soy Joaquin", which still speaks to the
26 Chicano struggle to achieve economic and social justice in the United
27 States; and

28 WHEREAS, Gonzales recognized that the political establishment
29 has always been adverse to the Chicano community, particularly in
30 education, so he and his wife, Geraldine Gonzales, along with several
31 families, founded Escuela Tlatelolco in 1970 to lay a foundation of
32 academic excellence, cultural pride, confidence, and leadership for all
33 children; and

1 WHEREAS, Colorado's contribution to the Chicano Movement
2 also served as a catalyst in the founding of incredible organizations in the
3 San Luis Valley, Pueblo, Denver, and on college campuses statewide,
4 many of which exist today; and

5 WHEREAS, In a complex and diversified cultural society, it is
6 essential to understand, accept, and appreciate all traditions and lifestyles
7 in order to eliminate prejudice and the other effects of stereotyping that
8 have plagued our nation for centuries; and

9 WHEREAS, The people of this state must recognize that the
10 cultural and intellectual development of the proud Chicano community
11 includes not only American accomplishments but also accomplishments
12 that predate the first English settlements in the United States by centuries;
13 now, therefore,

14 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
15 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

16 That we, the members of the General Assembly of the state of
17 Colorado, hereby proclaim the week commencing February 2, 2016, as
18 Chicano History Week in Colorado, in recognition of the multitude of
19 Chicanos and Chicanas throughout the great state of Colorado, and their
20 Indigenous and Mexican ancestors, who had the courage and
21 determination to stand up, face, and improve the economic, educational,
22 political, and social lives of Chicanos and Chicanas locally and
23 nationally.

24 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
25 to the family of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales; the Colorado Latino
26 Leadership, Advocacy, and Research Organization; Servicios de la Raza;
27 the Colorado Latino Forum; the Executive Director of the Colorado
28 History Museum; the Executive Director of the Denver Public Library;
29 the Superintendents of all Colorado school districts; the mayors of all
30 Colorado municipalities; all Colorado county commissioners; all
31 Colorado public university college presidents; and Colorado's
32 Congressional delegation.