

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

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HR25-1004

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 25-1004

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF "CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY" AND**
102 **HONORING DOLORES HUERTA.**

1 WHEREAS, Césario Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927,
2 on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and was raised by migrant farm
3 workers; and

4 WHEREAS, During the Great Depression, César Chávez's family,
5 like many other families, became migrant workers. They joined hundreds
6 of thousands of workers who followed crops to Southern California; and

7 WHEREAS, César Chávez left school after eighth grade to labor
8 in the fields and vineyards of the Southwest to help support his family;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1944, at the age of 17, César Chávez joined the
11 U.S. Navy and served his country until receiving an honorable discharge
12 in 1946; and

13 WHEREAS, After experiencing years of discrimination and unfair
14 working conditions, César Chávez dedicated his life to improving the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 plight of farm workers; and

2 WHEREAS, César Chávez and fellow activist Dolores Huerta
3 formed the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, which later
4 became the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), to help farm
5 workers win equal rights and fair treatment; and

6 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta, who was born in Dawson, New
7 Mexico, in 1930, became a focused activist, organizer, and feminist and
8 brought forward a unique voice on behalf of women to ensure economic
9 justice for all workers; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1965, Chávez and Huerta organized a strike of
11 California grape workers to demand higher wages and urged Americans
12 to boycott table grapes as a show of support; and

13 WHEREAS, César Chávez believed in the principles of
14 nonviolence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King,
15 Jr., and used tactics such as boycotts, marches, strikes, and fasts to gain
16 millions of supporters and new members for farm labor unions across the
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, By 1970, Chávez and the UFW had persuaded grape
19 growers to accept union contracts and had successfully organized almost
20 the entire industry; and

21 WHEREAS, During a fast by Chávez in 1972, Dolores Huerta
22 coined the phrase "¡Sí se puede!", which in English means "Yes, it can be
23 done!", reflecting a conviction that workers can successfully organize and
24 secure rights; and

25 WHEREAS, The work of César Chávez was informed by his
26 devout Catholic faith, and he favored images of Our Lady of Guadalupe
27 at marches and demonstrations; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1975, Chávez and Huerta and the UFW's efforts
29 resulted in the California "Agricultural Labor Relations Act", a
30 groundbreaking law protecting the right of farm workers to unionize; and

31 WHEREAS, Chávez tirelessly devoted himself to making people
32 aware of the struggles of farm workers and their need for better pay and
33 safer working conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and the UFW
2 achieved the following:

- 3 ● The first collective bargaining agreement between farm
4 workers and growers in the continental United States;
- 5 ● The first union contracts requiring rest periods, clean
6 drinking water, hand washing facilities, and clothing
7 protective against pesticide exposure;
- 8 ● The first ban on pesticide spraying while workers were in
9 the fields and the first ban on DDT and other dangerous
10 pesticides;
- 11 ● The first and only performing pension plan for retired farm
12 workers;
- 13 ● The first union contracts regulating safety and sanitary
14 conditions in farm labor camps and banning discrimination
15 in employment and sexual harassment of female workers;
- 16 ● Abolition of the use of "*el cortito*", the infamous
17 short-handled hoe that disabled generations of farm
18 workers; and
- 19 ● Extension of state coverage for unemployment, disability,
20 and workers' compensation to farm workers; and

21 WHEREAS, On April 23, 1993, César Chávez died peacefully in
22 his sleep in San Luis, Arizona; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1994, President Bill Clinton posthumously
24 awarded César Chávez the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest
25 civilian honor in the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, César Chávez influenced and inspired millions of
27 Americans to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and
28 disenfranchised in our society; and

29 WHEREAS, It is important to continue César Chávez and Dolores
30 Huerta's legacies of advocating for the rights of agricultural workers,
31 including efforts currently underway; now, therefore,

1 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

3 That we, the members of the House of Representatives, honor
4 March 31, 2025, as "César Chávez Day" in recognition of both César
5 Chávez and Dolores Huerta, two inspiring leaders who have improved the
6 working conditions, safety, and dignity of so many.

7 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Resolution be sent to
8 former State Senator Rob Hernandez, who, with State Representative
9 Frana Mace, was the prime sponsor on Senate Joint Resolution 99-043,
10 "Recognizing César Chávez"; former State Representative Fran Coleman;
11 former State Senator Polly Baca; former State Senator Abel Tapia; each
12 member of Colorado's congressional delegation; Dolores Huerta of the
13 Dolores Huerta Foundation; the César Chávez Peace and Justice
14 Committee of Denver, c/o Dr. Ramón Del Castillo, co-founder of the
15 committee and retired professor and chair of the Chicana and Chicano
16 Studies Department at Metropolitan State University of Denver;
17 Woodbury Library in Denver; the members of the Pueblo City Council;
18 César Chávez Academy in Pueblo; Denver Mayor Mike Johnston; and the
19 members of the Denver City Council.