

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

**ENGROSSED**

LLS NO. R16-1014.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

**HJR16-1009**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1009**

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

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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.*

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
February 2, 2016

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.