

Grand Lodge of New York
Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America
NYS Commission for Social Justice
2101 Bellmore Avenue | Bellmore, NY 11710
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June 25, 2020

Hon. Joseph P. Addabbo
Chairman, Conference of Italian American Legislators
New York State Senate
188 State Street Room 811 - LOB
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Addabbo:

The New York State Commission for Social Justice is the anti-defamation arm of the New York Grand Lodge, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. The Commission has, throughout the years, engaged in a wide variety of activities geared toward accomplishing its twin goals of promoting a positive image of Italian Americans and fighting bias, bigotry, and defamation.

We look to you and the members of the Italian American Caucus in Albany to be the voice of the Italian American community in New York State. As you know, Senate Bill S8553 has been proposed by Senator Jessica Ramos and Senator Brad Hoylman, that would end the Columbus Day holiday in New York.

As an Italian American, we know you understand the importance of Christopher Columbus, and his holiday for our community. We know you realize the discrimination that our community has experienced over the years that began with the 1891 lynching of 11 innocent Italian immigrants in the city of New Orleans. That was the time our community looked to Columbus as our hero.

The attacks on Columbus today is an attempt to rewrite history and to promote a negative narrative about him. We have the facts and we know this narrative is false and being pushed by those with a hateful agenda.

We are asking for your help and assistance from the Conference to fight Senate Bill S8553 and preserve the Columbus holiday in the State of New York. Now is the time for all Italian Americans to come together and unify behind this very serious matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Anthony Naccarato
Anthony Naccarato, President
Grand Lodge of New York, OSDIA

John A. Fratta
John A. Fratta, Chairman
NYS Commission for Social Justice