

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

LLS NO. R14-1030.01 Effie Ameen x2044

SJR14-024

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Guzman and Aguilar,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pabon, Duran, Garcia, Moreno, Salazar, Vigil

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-024

101 CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF "CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY".

1 WHEREAS, César 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, In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, like so
5 many others, César Chávez's father lost his small farming business, and
6 the family became migrant workers and joined some 30,000 workers who
7 followed the crops from Arizona into southern California; and

8 WHEREAS, César Chávez left school after the eighth grade to
9 labor in the fields and vineyards of the Southwest to help support his
10 family; 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
Amended Final Rdg
March 31, 2014

SENATE
Final Reading
March 31, 2014

1 WHEREAS, In 1944, at the age of 17, César Chávez joined the
2 Navy and served in World War II; and

3 WHEREAS, After experiencing years of discrimination and unfair
4 working conditions, César Chávez dedicated his life to improving the
5 plight of farm workers through struggle, sacrifice, and self-denial; and

6 WHEREAS, César Chávez formed his own organization in 1962,
7 the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United
8 Farm Workers of America (UFW), to help farm workers like himself win
9 equal rights and fair treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, When recognizing César Chávez, it is only right to
11 recognize the accomplishments of UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta, for
12 her work on behalf of farm workers; and

13 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta brought forward a unique voice on
14 behalf of women to ensure all workers had fair representation; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1965, César Chávez led a strike of California
16 grape pickers to demand higher wages and urged all Americans to boycott
17 table grapes as a show of support; and

18 WHEREAS, César Chávez believed in the principles of
19 nonviolence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King,
20 Jr., and used tactics such as boycotts, marches, strikes, and fasts to lead
21 a successful five-year boycott that gained millions of members and
22 supporters for farm labor unions across the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, By 1970, César Chávez and the UFW had persuaded
24 grape growers to accept union contracts and had successfully organized
25 almost the entire industry; and

26 WHEREAS, During a fast in 1972, César Chávez coined the
27 phrase "Sí, se puede", which in English means "Yes, it can be done",
28 reflecting his conviction that failure happens only by giving up on
29 nonviolent tactics; and

30 WHEREAS, The work of César Chávez was informed by his
31 devout Catholic faith, and he traditionally included images of Our Lady
32 of Guadalupe at marches and demonstrations and led supporters in
33 praying the rosary; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1975, César Chávez and the UFW's efforts resulted
2 in the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, a groundbreaking law
3 protecting the right of farm workers to unionize; and

4 WHEREAS, César Chávez tirelessly devoted himself to making
5 all people aware of the struggles of farm workers and their need for better
6 pay and safer working conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, César Chávez and the organization he cofounded
8 with Dolores Huerta, the UFW, achieved the following:

9 ! The first collective bargaining agreement between farm
10 workers and growers in the continental United States; and

11 ! The first union contracts requiring rest periods, clean
12 drinking water, hand washing facilities, and protective
13 clothing against pesticide exposure; and

14 ! The first ban on pesticide spraying while workers were in
15 the fields and the first ban on DDT and other dangerous
16 pesticides; and

17 ! The first and only performing pension plan for retired farm
18 workers; and

19 ! The first union contracts regulating safety and sanitary
20 conditions in farm labor camps and banning discrimination
21 in employment and sexual harassment of female workers;
22 and

23 ! Abolition of the use of the infamous short-handled hoe that
24 crippled generations of farm workers; and

25 ! Extension of state coverage under unemployment,
26 disability, and workers' compensation to farm workers; and

27 WHEREAS, On April 23, 1993, César Estrada Chávez died
28 peacefully in his sleep in San Luis, Arizona; and

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

1 WHEREAS, César Chávez influenced and inspired millions of
2 Americans to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and
3 disenfranchised in our society; now, therefore,

4 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*
5 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

6 That we, the members of the General Assembly, honor a man who
7 devoted his life to improving the working conditions, safety, and dignity
8 of so many on the day that the entire state observes as "César Chávez
9 Day", March 31, 2014.

10 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
11 to former State Representative Frana Mace; former State Representative
12 Fran Coleman; former State Representative Val Vigil; former State
13 Senator Polly Baca; former State Senator Rob Hernandez; former State
14 Senator Abel Tapia; each member of Colorado's congressional delegation;
15 Dolores Huerta of the Dolores Huerta Foundation; Dr. Ramón Del
16 Castillo, cofounder of the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee and
17 Professor and Chair of the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at
18 Metropolitan State University of Denver; Woodbury Library in Denver;
19 the members of the Pueblo City Council; Cesar Chavez Academy in
20 Pueblo; Denver Mayor Michael Hancock; and the members of the Denver
21 City Council, in recognition of their efforts to promote "César Chávez
22 Day".