

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R25-0965.01 Asia Alosa x4829

SJR25-022

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Ball,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Woodrow and Weinberg,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25-022

101 **CONCERNING REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST.**

1 WHEREAS, Genocide begins not with violence but with words;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism have been the
4 causes of conflict, war, and mass atrocities throughout human history; and

5 WHEREAS, Observing an individual moment of silence for each
6 Jewish victim of the Holocaust would take over 11 years; and

7 WHEREAS, The English word "holocaust" derives from Greek
8 words meaning "whole" (holos) and "burnt" (kaustos) and generally
9 describes destruction on a mass scale. "Holocaust" as a proper noun
10 specifically refers to the state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of
11 European Jews and others at the direction of the German Nazi

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 government between 1933 and 1945; and

2 WHEREAS, The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in
3 January 1933, asserted that Germans were racially superior and that Jews
4 and others were inferior and an alien threat to the so-called German racial
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, The Nazis used antisemitism as a political weapon to
7 gain popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's hardships,
8 including the country's defeat in World War I, the economic depression,
9 and the threat of Bolshevik communism; it made little difference that the
10 Nazis' accusations were blatantly contradictory and their so-called facts
11 were fabricated; and

12 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
13 collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (two out of every three Jews who
14 lived throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as
15 5 million other civilians, including Sinti people, Roma people, people
16 with intellectual or developmental disabilities, gay men, Jehovah's
17 Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents; and

18 WHEREAS, We recall that in the aftermath of World War II,
19 Israel, a close ally and friend of the United States, became a refuge for
20 many survivors who endured the ravages of the Holocaust, and it has
21 remained a sanctuary for Jews worldwide seeking safety ever since; and

22 WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge the more than 28,000
23 non-Jews who, at great risk to themselves, saved Jews from extermination
24 during the Holocaust and have been designated Righteous Among the
25 Nations by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center; and

26 WHEREAS, Today, as we mourn the loss of those who were killed
27 and consider the terrible experiences of those who suffered and lived
28 through the Holocaust, we note that antisemitic acts are not a thing of the
29 past: According to the Anti-Defamation League's annual audit of
30 antisemitic incidents, anti-Jewish incidents surged to historic levels in
31 2024, with a total of 9,354 incidents of anti-Jewish harassment,
32 vandalism, and assault reported across the United States. In Colorado,
33 there were 279 reported anti-Jewish incidents in 2024, which is the
34 highest level recorded in more than 40 years and a 41 percent increase
35 since 2023. Colorado ranked ninth among states in 2024 for the most
36 reported antisemitic incidents. Globally, there has also been an increase

1 in antisemitic incidents; many Jews feel more isolated and vulnerable as
2 a result; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, while we remember the Holocaust, we focus
4 our attention on the passing of Holocaust survivors who provided
5 firsthand accounts of the terrors they endured, leaving their children and
6 grandchildren as the last generations to know the stories of the Holocaust
7 directly from those who lived through it; and

8 WHEREAS, While we are fortunate that several organizations in
9 Colorado are dedicated to retelling the stories of the Holocaust and other
10 genocides, it is not enough; far too many people, including most students,
11 need more opportunities to learn about these atrocities so they are not
12 repeated. To mitigate the issue, on July 8, 2020, Governor Polis signed
13 into law House Bill 20-1336, requiring the satisfactory completion of a
14 course that includes Holocaust and genocide studies as a condition of
15 high school graduation in public schools; and

16 WHEREAS, We recognize the tremendous investment and
17 preparation that Colorado school districts, administrators, and, foremost,
18 classroom educators are putting forth to implement and support House
19 Bill 20-1336 as they ensure the phrase "We remember" will carry
20 meaning and merit for generations of Colorado students; and

21 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to bear witness to the truth of
22 the horrors of the Holocaust, its many lessons, and to prevent hateful
23 words from building up like the bricks that built Auschwitz; now,
24 therefore,

25 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
26 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*
27

28 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

29 (1) Remember the Holocaust;

30 (2) Promote antibias, bullying prevention, and Holocaust and
31 genocide education programs in school districts and universities to
32 prevent antisemitic incidents that target Jewish students, including
33 targeting based on their actual or perceived support of the state of Israel;
34 and

1 (3) Declare that the people of Colorado should understand the
2 power of words, remember the great injustices of the past, and commit to
3 preventing such atrocities in the future.

4 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
5 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
6 Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
7 Coalition Against Global Genocide; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at
8 the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith
9 Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the Denver Parks and
10 Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States office of the
11 Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in
12 Washington, D.C.; the Colorado Holocaust Educators; and the University
13 of Colorado at Boulder Program in Jewish Studies.