

First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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HJR17-1027

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Sias,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Crowder and Fenberg,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1027

101 **CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF APRIL 23, 2017, THROUGH APRIL**
102 **29, 2017, AS "HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK".**

1 WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, and racism have been the cause of
2 conflict, war, and mass atrocities throughout human history; and

3 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic,
4 state-sponsored persecution and murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazi
5 regime and its collaborators; the Nazis, who came to power in Germany
6 in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that
7 the Jews, deemed "inferior", were an alien threat to the so-called German
8 racial community; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
10 collaborators murdered 6 million of the 9 million Jews who lived

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.

1 throughout Europe, 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as 5
2 million other civilians it deemed to be "inferior", including Sinti and
3 Roma people, Poles, people with intellectual or developmental
4 disabilities, gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and
5 political dissidents; and

6 WHEREAS, Hitler used anti-Semitism as a political weapon to
7 gain popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's problems,
8 including their defeat in World War I, the economic depression, and the
9 Bolshevik threat of communism; that Hitler's accusations were blatantly
10 contradictory and his facts were often fabricated made little difference;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, We must never forget the horrors of the Holocaust
13 and how, by 1945, the Germans and their collaborators had killed nearly
14 2 out of every 3 European Jews as part of the "Final Solution", the Nazi
15 policy to murder the Jews of Europe; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, while we remember the heartbreak part of
17 human history that is the Holocaust, we specifically acknowledge the
18 experience of the Polish Jewish community, the largest in Europe prior
19 to the Holocaust; once the central European home to 3.3 million Jews, by
20 1945, 3 million had been executed; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, while we remember the horror that was the
22 Holocaust, we focus our attention to the passing of time and the few
23 remaining survivors who can tell us their stories first hand; we must
24 acknowledge those who ensure that we never forget; and

25 WHEREAS, "Never Again" has been the mantra of generations
26 who survived the atrocities in Europe, with the goal being to never relive
27 this history and to guide us to learn the basics of respect for humanity;
28 until now we have always had first-hand eye witnesses and survivors
29 living in our midst; and

30 WHEREAS, Even with first-hand eye witnesses living amongst us,
31 there have been those who have tried to erase the history of the
32 Holocaust, to revise the facts and deny what occurred; now, more than
33 ever, we must bear witness, as our children and grandchildren will be the
34 last generations to know this story directly from those who lived through
35 it; and

1 WHEREAS, In Colorado, there are several organizations dedicated
2 to the retelling of the accounts of genocide; and

3 WHEREAS, Many students in Colorado learn the history of World
4 War II, including the Nazi genocide; and

5 WHEREAS, The history of Colorado's Holocaust survivors is
6 written in books and recorded in oral history projects around the country
7 and in Israel; and

8 WHEREAS, We recognize that, among the 3 million Polish Jews
9 and 2 million Polish gentiles murdered during the Holocaust, there are
10 many stories from which we can learn, including those from individuals
11 like Pawel Frenkiel, a leader during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising; Ala
12 Gertner, who died a martyr for aiding the underground resistance; Janusz
13 Korczak, who after many years of working with orphans in the Warsaw
14 Ghetto refused freedom so that he could remain with his orphans when
15 they were relocated to the Treblinka extermination camp; and many
16 others who perished in Polish concentration camps, including
17 Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Gross-Rosen, Majdanek,
18 Plaszow, Sobibor, Stutthoff, and Treblinka; and

19 WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge the 6,620 Righteous
20 Among the Nations, those who risked their lives during the Holocaust to
21 save Jews from extermination by the Nazis, people such as Stanislaw
22 Grocholski; Jan Karski; Tadeusz Kosibowicz; Tadeusz Pankiewicz;
23 Helena, Miroslawa, and Ursula Przebindowska; Oskar Schindler; Irena
24 Sendler; Rudolf Weigl; Antonina and Jan Zabinski; and many other Poles
25 or those working or living in Nazi-occupied Poland, whose accounts of
26 struggle serve as lessons from which we can all learn; and

27 WHEREAS, We recognize there are the few remaining survivors
28 of the Holocaust who exhibited a tremendous will to live and persevere
29 despite the horrors they endured, yet can never forget the atrocities that
30 were inflicted on them, their families, and their friends; and

31 WHEREAS, We should never forget the terrible experiences of
32 those who suffered and lived through the Holocaust, and we are reminded
33 of the importance of those lessons by the resurgence of anti-Semitism
34 around the world; pernicious Holocaust denial; and recent episodes of
35 ethnic cleansing, genocide, terrorism, crimes against humanity, wars on
36 civilian populations, and mass killings in so many parts of the world,

1 including Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda, and the
2 Sudan; and

3 WHEREAS, We must also recall that in the aftermath of war,
4 Palestine, then controlled by the British, became a destination for many
5 of the survivors in Europe; that on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel
6 became a place of refuge for those who endured the ravages of the
7 Holocaust; and that today, Israel is a thriving democracy and close ally
8 and friend of the United States; now, therefore,

9 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
10 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

11 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

12 (1) Proclaim the week of April 23, 2017, through April 29, 2017,
13 as "Holocaust Awareness Week"; and

14 (2) Declare that the people of Colorado should use these days to
15 teach and remember the great injustices of the past and to commit to
16 preventing such atrocities in the future.

17 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
18 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
19 Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
20 Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; the Colorado
21 Agency for Jewish Education; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at the
22 University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith Alliance
23 of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; Denver Parks & Recreation
24 Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States Regional Office of the
25 Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in
26 Washington, D.C.; and the University of Colorado Program in Jewish
27 Studies.