



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19-1014

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Michaelson Jenet and McKean, Arndt, Baisley, Beckman, Benavidez, Bird, Bockenfeld, Buck, Buckner, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Galindo, Garnett, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Larson, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, McCluskie, McLachlan, Melton, Mullica, Neville, Pelton, Ransom, Rich, Roberts, Saine, Sandridge, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams D., Wilson, Becker;
also SENATOR(S) Ginal and Gardner, Bridges, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Foote, Gonzales, Hill, Hisey, Holbert, Lee, Lundeen, Marble, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Garcia.

CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF APRIL 28, 2019, THROUGH MAY 5, 2019, AS "HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK".

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

WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (2 out of every 3 Jews who lived throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as 5 million other civilians, including Sinti, Roma, people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents; and

WHEREAS, We recall that in the aftermath of war, Israel, a thriving democracy and close ally and friend of the United States, became a refuge for many survivors who endured the ravages of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge the more than 26,500 non-Jews who, at great risk to themselves, saved Jews during the Holocaust from extermination and have been designated Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem - the World Holocaust Remembrance Center; and

WHEREAS, Today, as we mourn the loss of those who were killed and consider the terrible experiences of those who suffered and lived through the Holocaust, we note that anti-Semitic acts are not a thing of the past: According to the Anti-Defamation League, in Colorado, the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents more than tripled between 2015 and 2017, when they rose from 18 to 57 incidents; and in 2018, there were 39 anti-Semitic incidents reported in Colorado, which is still more than twice the number of incidents in 2015; and

WHEREAS, We must also acknowledge that ethnic cleansing, genocide, terrorism, crimes against humanity, and wars on civilian populations are not relics of the past; and

WHEREAS, Regretfully, the phrase "Never Again" has become "Yet Again", as we see today and in the recent past so much brutality in places like Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda, the Sudan, and the world's newest country, South Sudan; and

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

WHEREAS, While we are fortunate that several organizations in Colorado are dedicated to retelling the stories of the Holocaust and other genocides, it is not enough; far too many people, including most students, need more opportunities to learn about these atrocities; and

WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to bear witness to the truth of the horrors of the Holocaust and its many lessons; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

(1) Declare the week of April 28, 2019, through May 5, 2019, as "Holocaust Awareness Week"; and

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

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness & Action; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the

Denver Parks & Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States Regional Office of the Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the University of Colorado Program in Jewish Studies.

KC Becker
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Leroy M. Garcia
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE