

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R18-1084.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

HJR18-1014

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and McKean,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd and Cooke,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1014

101 **CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF APRIL 9, 2018, THROUGH APRIL**
102 **13, 2018, AS "HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK".**

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

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

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

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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

7 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
8 collaborators murdered six million Jews (two out of every three Jews who
9 lived throughout Europe), one-and-a-half million of whom were children,
10 as well as five million other civilians, including Sinti, Roma, people with
11 intellectual or developmental disabilities, gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses,
12 Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Today, as we mourn the loss of those who were killed
22 and consider the terrible experiences of those who suffered and lived
23 through the Holocaust, we note the dramatic rise in anti-Semitic incidents
24 in this state and the country and the resurgence of anti-Semitism and
25 Holocaust denial around the world; and

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

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

33 WHEREAS, Today, while we remember the Holocaust, we focus
34 our attention on the passing of Holocaust survivors who provided
35 first-hand accounts of the terrors they endured, leaving their children and

1 grandchildren as the last generations to know the stories of the Holocaust
2 directly from those who lived through it; and

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

7 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to bear witness to the truth of
8 the horrors of the Holocaust and its many lessons; 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 9, 2018, through April 13, 2018,
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 Holocaust
21 Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic
22 Studies; the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the
23 Denver Parks & Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain
24 States Regional Office of the Jewish National Fund; the United States
25 Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the University of
26 Colorado Program in Jewish Studies.