

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

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R22-0985.01 Asia Merrill x4829

HJR22-1020

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Pelton, Amabile, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Garnett, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Holtorf, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Larson, Lindsay, Lontine, Luck, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Mullica, Neville, Ortiz, Pico, Ransom, Rich, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woog, Young

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fenberg and Gardner,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1020

101 **CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST.**

1 WHEREAS, The genesis of genocide begins not with violence but
2 with words; 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, The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic,
6 state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by the Nazi regime and
7 its collaborators in Germany and occupied lands; and

8 WHEREAS, The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in
9 January 1933, asserted that Germans were racially superior and that Jews
10 and others were inferior and an alien threat to the so-called German racial
11 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.

HOUSE
Final Reading
April 28, 2022

1 WHEREAS, Hitler used antisemitism as a political weapon to gain
2 popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's problems, including
3 the country's 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 so-called facts were
6 fabricated; and

7 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
8 collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (two out of every three Jews who
9 lived throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as
10 5 million other civilians, including Sinti, Roma, people with intellectual
11 or developmental disabilities, gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet
12 prisoners of war, and political dissidents; and

13 WHEREAS, We recall that in the aftermath of war, Israel, a close
14 ally and friend of the United States, became a refuge for many survivors
15 who endured the ravages of the Holocaust and has remained a sanctuary
16 for Jews worldwide seeking safety ever since; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Today, as we mourn the loss of those who were killed
23 and consider the terrible experiences of those who suffered and lived
24 through the Holocaust, we note that antisemitic acts are not a thing of the
25 past: According to the Anti-Defamation League, the number of reported
26 antisemitic incidents in Colorado has reached a 40-year high, with 92
27 incidents, which is a 53 percent increase from the 60 incidents reported
28 in 2020; nationally, antisemitic incidents remain at a historically high
29 level, with well over half of Jewish Americans experiencing or directly
30 witnessing some form of antisemitic incident; and globally, there has also
31 been an increase in antisemitic incidents, and some Jews feel more
32 isolated and vulnerable as a result; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Regretfully, the phrase "Never Again" has become
2 "Yet Again", as we see today and in the recent past so much brutality in
3 places like Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Ukraine,
4 Rwanda, the Central African Republic, Sudan, and South Sudan; and

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

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

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

19 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third*
20 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

21 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

22 (1) Commemorate the Holocaust;

23 (2) Promote anti-bias, bullying prevention, and Holocaust and
24 genocide education programs in school districts and universities to
25 prevent antisemitic incidents that target Jewish students as a result of their
26 actual or perceived support of the state of Israel; and

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

30 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
31 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
32 Mountain States regional office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
33 Coalition Against Global Genocide; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at

1 the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith
2 Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the Denver Parks and
3 Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States office of the
4 Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in
5 Washington, D.C.; and the University of Colorado Boulder Program in
6 Jewish Studies.