

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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SJR16-036

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Crowder and Ulibarri,

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Rosenthal and Sias,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-036

101 **CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF MAY 1, 2016, THROUGH MAY 8,**
102 **2016, 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 physical and mental disabilities, gay
4 men, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political
5 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 heartbreaking 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, The history of the Jews in Poland dates back over 800
22 years; they prospered from and contributed to cultural, artistic, academic,
23 literary, musical, philosophical, and business centers in Warsaw, Lodz,
24 Krakow, and Vilno, as well as thousands of small villages throughout the
25 country; and

26 WHEREAS, We note that a consequence of the systematic
27 execution of Polish Jews is the near annihilation of the Yiddish language,
28 as Yiddish was infused with the cultural heritage of Jews in Poland and
29 throughout Europe and the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, We mourn the synagogues that were desecrated and
31 destroyed by the Nazi Regime and its collaborators; and

32 WHEREAS, We are heartened that approximately a dozen
33 synagogues have been renovated and are still standing in Poland; they are
34 monuments of the Jewish faith and testaments to efforts made by others
35 in the preservation of the Jewish culture; and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, We should never forget the terrible experiences of
25 those that suffered and lived through the Holocaust in Poland and
26 throughout Europe, and we are reminded of the importance of those
27 lessons by the resurgence of anti-Semitism around the world; pernicious
28 Holocaust denial; and recent episodes of ethnic cleansing, genocide,
29 terrorism, crimes against humanity, wars on civilian populations, and
30 mass killings in so many parts of the world, including Syria, Iraq, Nigeria,
31 Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda, and the Sudan; and

32 WHEREAS, We must also recall that in the aftermath of war,
33 Palestine, then controlled by the British, became the primary destination
34 for many of the survivors in Europe, although Britain restricted
35 immigration; that a massive effort was organized to smuggle Jewish
36 refugees; that on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel became a place of
37 refuge for those who endured the ravages of the Holocaust; and that
38 today, Israel is a thriving democracy and close ally and friend of the

1 United States; now, therefore,

2 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
3 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

4 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

5 (1) Proclaim the week of May 1, 2016, through May 8, 2016, as
6 "Holocaust Awareness Week"; and

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

10 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
11 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
12 Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
13 Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; the Colorado
14 Agency for Jewish Education; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at the
15 University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith Alliance
16 of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; Denver Parks & Recreation
17 Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States Regional Office of the
18 Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in
19 Washington, D.C.; the University of Colorado Program in Jewish Studies;
20 the diplomatic mission of Israel; the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem;
21 the University of Colorado Mazal Holocaust Collection; The Elie Wiesel
22 Foundation for Humanity; Colorado Holocaust Educators; Father Patrick
23 Desbois and Yahad-In Unum; and the Colorado Congressional
24 Delegation.