



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-1010

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

also SENATOR(S) Gardner and Moreno, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hisey, Holbert, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Garcia.

CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST.

WHEREAS, The genesis of genocide begins not with violence but with words; and

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 (two out of every three 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 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 has doubled since 2018, with over 60 reported incidents of anti-Semitism in both 2019 and 2020; nationally, anti-Semitic incidents remain at a historically high level, with well over half of Jewish Americans experiencing or directly witnessing some form of anti-Semitic incident; and globally, there has also been an increase in anti-Semitic incidents, and some Jews feel more isolated and vulnerable as a result; 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 with so much brutality in places like Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda, the Central African Republic, the Sudan, and the 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 so they are not repeated; and

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

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

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

(1) Commemorate the Holocaust;

(2) Promote anti-bias, bullying prevention, and Holocaust and genocide education programs in school districts and universities to prevent anti-Semitic incidents that target Jewish students because of their actual or perceived support of the state of Israel; and

(3) Declare that the people of Colorado should understand the power of words, remember the great injustices of the past, and 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 and 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 and 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.

Alec Garnett
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
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Leroy M. Garcia
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