

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

Reps. Steckloff, Arbit, Bezotte, Bierlein, Breen, Churches, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Haadsma, Hope, Hoskins, Morse, Schuette, Snyder, Stone and Wilson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 16-22, 2023, as Holocaust
2 Memorial Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The horrors of the Holocaust should never be
4 forgotten. The Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic
5 persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and
6 its collaborators during the years 1933 through 1945. This resulted
7 in the extermination of six million Jews and their potential
8 decedents. The world's Jewish population was reduced by one-third.
9 Poland, home to the largest Jewish community before World War II,
10 lost 90 percent of its Jewish population. Greece, Yugoslavia,

1 Hungary, Lithuania, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Latvia
2 each lost more than 70 percent of their Jewish population; and

3 Whereas, Millions more suffered grievous oppression and death
4 under Nazi tyranny based on their religion, including Catholic
5 priests, Christian pastors, and Jehovah's Witnesses; their national
6 origin, including Poles, Soviets, Ukrainians and Sorbs; their
7 ethnicity and culture, including the Romani people; their political
8 beliefs, including courageous resisters and government dissidents;
9 their physical appearance, including those with disabilities; and
10 their sexual orientation and gender identity; and

11 Whereas, The history of the Holocaust allows us to reflect on
12 the moral and ethical responsibilities of individuals, societies,
13 and governments. It also serves as an important reminder of what
14 can happen when we allow bigotry, hatred, and indifference to enter
15 and conquer our societies. It is crucial to educate all citizens
16 about the horrors of genocide and to instill values of tolerance
17 and acceptance in our state's ever-changing and diverse population;
18 and

19 Whereas, The Michigan Legislature enacted PA 170 of 2016,
20 which provided that the board of a school district or board of
21 directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the school
22 district's or public school academy's social studies curriculum for
23 grades 8 to 12 includes age- and grade-appropriate instruction
24 about genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust and
25 the Armenian Genocide; and

26 Whereas, PA 170 of 2016 also created the Governor's Council on
27 Genocide and Holocaust Education, a temporary commission, whose
28 tasks include identifying and notifying schools about resources for
29 teaching about genocide and the Holocaust; and to engender and

1 coordinate events, activities, and education that will
2 appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as
3 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day; and

4 Whereas, The FBI's most recent report on hate crimes reveals a
5 continued increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes in the United
6 States; and

7 Whereas, Anti-Semitic incidents have touched many areas of
8 Michigan recently, including distribution of anti-Semitic fliers in
9 Delta Township, threats against children and security personnel at
10 Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township, an attack against a
11 student's dorm room Mezuzah at Michigan State University,
12 distribution of anti-Semitic fliers near the campus of University
13 of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Nazi graffiti spray painted on Temple Jacob
14 in Marquette, and anti-Semitic posters placed upon Temple Emanuel
15 in Grand Rapids; and

16 Whereas, The state of Michigan has many resources to ensure
17 that our state's residents understand the implications of bias
18 motivated violence, including the Holocaust Memorial Center in
19 Farmington Hills; and

20 Whereas, The Holocaust Memorial Center has educated and
21 inspired its 65,000 annual visitors towards a collective
22 understanding of tolerance and acceptance of the diverse beliefs in
23 our state, country, and world; now, therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body declare April 16-22, 2023, as Holocaust
26 Memorial Week in the state of Michigan; and be it further

27 Resolved, That in honor of the victims of the Holocaust, the
28 survivors, and their liberators, the citizens of Michigan should
29 reflect upon this terrible event and strive to overcome hatred and

1 intolerance through learning and remembrance.