

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

Rep. Steckloff 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,  
11 Hungary, Lithuania, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Latvia  
12 each lost more than 70 percent of their Jewish population; and

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

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

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

24           Whereas, PA 170 of 2016 also created the Governor's Council on  
25 Genocide and Holocaust Education, a temporary commission, whose  
26 tasks include identifying and notifying schools about resources for  
27 teaching about genocide and the Holocaust; and to engender and  
28 coordinate events, activities, and education that will  
29 appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as

1 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day; and

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

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

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

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

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

25       Resolved, That in honor of the victims of the Holocaust, the  
26 survivors, and their liberators, the citizens of Michigan should  
27 reflect upon this terrible event and strive to overcome hatred and  
28 intolerance through learning and remembrance.