

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R19-1111.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

HJR19-1014

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and McKean,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ginal and Gardner,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19-1014

101 **CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF APRIL 28, 2019, THROUGH MAY 5,**
102 **2019, AS "HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK".**

1 WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism have been the
2 cause of conflict, war, and mass atrocities throughout human history; and

3 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic,
4 state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by the Nazi regime and
5 its collaborators; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Hitler used anti-Semitism as a political weapon to
2 gain popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's problems,
3 including the country's defeat in World War I, the economic depression,
4 and the Bolshevik threat of communism; it made little difference that
5 Hitler's accusations were blatantly contradictory and his so-called facts
6 were fabricated; and

7 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
8 collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (2 out of every 3 Jews who lived
9 throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as 5
10 million other civilians, including Sinti, Roma, people with intellectual or
11 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
14 thriving democracy and close ally and friend of the United States, became
15 a refuge for many survivors who endured the ravages of the Holocaust;
16 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 anti-Semitic acts are not a thing of
25 the past: According to the Anti-Defamation League, in Colorado, the
26 number of reported anti-Semitic incidents more than tripled between 2015
27 and 2017, when they rose from 18 to 57 incidents; and in 2018, there
28 were 39 anti-Semitic incidents reported in Colorado, which is still more
29 than twice the number of incidents in 2015; and

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

33 WHEREAS, Regretfully, the phrase "Never Again" has become
34 "Yet Again", as we see today and in the recent past so much brutality in
35 places like Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda,
36 the Sudan, and the world's newest country, South Sudan; and

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

6 WHEREAS, While we are fortunate that several organizations in
7 Colorado are dedicated to retelling the stories of the Holocaust and other
8 genocides, it is not enough; far too many people, including most students,
9 need more opportunities to learn about these atrocities; and

10 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to bear witness to the truth of
11 the horrors of the Holocaust and its many lessons; now, therefore,

12 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
13 *Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate*
14 *concurring herein:*

15

16 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

17 (1) Declare the week of April 28, 2019, through May 5, 2019, as
18 "Holocaust Awareness Week"; and

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

22 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
23 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
24 Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
25 Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness & Action; the Holocaust
26 Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic
27 Studies; the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the
28 Denver Parks & Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain
29 States Regional Office of the Jewish National Fund; the United States
30 Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the University of
31 Colorado Program in Jewish Studies.