

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1590

To provide assistance for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in  
Warsaw, Poland.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide assistance for the Museum of the History of  
Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Support for the Mu-  
5 seum of the History of Polish Jews Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Current and future generations benefit  
2 greatly by visible reminders and documentation of  
3 the historical and cultural roots of their society.

4           (2) It is in the national interest of the United  
5 States to encourage the preservation and protection  
6 of artifacts associated with the heritage of United  
7 States citizens who trace their forbearers to other  
8 countries and to encourage the collection and dis-  
9 semination of knowledge about that heritage.

10          (3) According to the 2000 United States Cen-  
11 sus, nearly 9,000,000 Americans are of Polish an-  
12 cestry.

13          (4) At the beginning of World War II, Poland  
14 had the largest Jewish population in Europe.

15          (5) In 1996, Yeshayahu Weinberg, a founding  
16 director of Tel Aviv's Diaspora Museum and the  
17 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, created  
18 an international team of experts with the goal of es-  
19 tablishing a Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

20          (6) The Museum of the History of Polish Jews  
21 will preserve and present the history of the Jewish  
22 people in Poland and the wealth of their culture  
23 spanning a period of 1,000 years.

24          (7) In 1997, the City of Warsaw donated a par-  
25 cel of land, opposite the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

1 Memorial, for the explicit use for the Museum of the  
2 History of Polish Jews.

3 (8) In 2005, the Government of Poland and the  
4 City of Warsaw agreed to provide 40,000,000 Polish  
5 zlotys for the construction of the Museum of the  
6 History of Polish Jews.

7 (9) In 2005, an international architectural com-  
8 petition selected a Finnish firm to design the build-  
9 ing for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

10 (10) In 2006, the building for the Museum of  
11 the History of Polish Jews moved into the last phase  
12 of project design.

13 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY**  
14 **OF POLISH JEWS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Assistance provided by the Bu-  
16 reau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Depart-  
17 ment of State shall be made available to assist in the de-  
18 velopment of the permanent collection of the Museum of  
19 the History of Polish Jews.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANCE.—To carry out  
21 the purposes of subsection (a), the Secretary of State is  
22 authorized to provide \$5,000,000, which shall remain  
23 available until expended, to the Museum for the History  
24 of Polish Jews.

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