

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

Senators Moss, Brinks, Chang, Geiss, Irwin, McMorrow and Polehanki offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 2, 2019, as Holocaust Remembrance
2 Day.

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

1 each lost more than 70 percent of their Jewish population; and

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

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

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

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

1 appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as
2 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
4 body declare May 2, 2019, as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the state
5 of Michigan; and be it further

6 Resolved, That in honor of the victims of the Holocaust, the
7 survivors, and their liberators, the citizens of Michigan should
8 reflect upon this terrible event and strive to overcome hatred and
9 intolerance through learning and remembrance.