

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R26-0890.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

HJR26-1027

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-1027

101 **CONCERNING REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST.**

1 WHEREAS, Genocide begins not with violence but with words;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism have been the
4 causes of conflict, war, and mass atrocities throughout human history; and

5 WHEREAS, Observing an individual moment of silence for each
6 Jewish victim of the Holocaust would take over 11 years; and

7 WHEREAS, The English word "holocaust" derives from Greek
8 words meaning "whole" (holos) and "burnt" (kaustos) and generally
9 describes destruction on a mass scale. "Holocaust" as a proper noun
10 specifically refers to the state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of
11 European Jews and others at the direction of the German Nazi

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
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HOUSE
Final Reading
April 14, 2026

1 government between 1933 and 1945; and

2 WHEREAS, The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in
3 January 1933, asserted that Germans were racially superior and that Jews
4 and others were inferior and an alien threat to the so-called German racial
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, The Nazis used antisemitism as a political weapon to
7 gain popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's hardships,
8 including the country's defeat in World War I, the economic depression,
9 and the threat of Bolshevik communism; it made little difference that the
10 Nazis' accusations were blatantly contradictory and their so-called facts
11 were fabricated; and

12 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
13 collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (two out of every three Jews who
14 lived throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as
15 5 million other civilians who were viewed as enemies or threats to Nazi
16 ideology; and

17 WHEREAS, We recall that in the aftermath of World War II,
18 Israel, a close ally and friend of the United States, became a refuge for
19 many survivors who endured the ravages of the Holocaust, and it has
20 remained a sanctuary for Jews worldwide seeking safety ever since; and

21 WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge the more than 28,000
22 non-Jews who, at great risk to themselves, saved Jews from extermination
23 during the Holocaust and have been designated Righteous Among the
24 Nations by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, and
25 acknowledge the efforts of the United States and other Allied Forces who
26 liberated Nazi concentration camps as World War II was ending; and

27 WHEREAS, Today, as we mourn the loss of those who were killed
28 and consider the terrible experiences of those who suffered and lived
29 through the Holocaust, we note that antisemitic acts are not a thing of the
30 past: According to the Anti-Defamation League's annual audit of
31 antisemitic incidents, anti-Jewish incidents surged to historic levels in
32 2024, with a total of 9,354 incidents of anti-Jewish harassment,
33 vandalism, and assault reported across the United States. In Colorado,
34 there were 279 reported anti-Jewish incidents in 2024, which is the
35 highest level recorded in more than 45 years and a 42 percent increase
36 since 2023. Colorado ranked ninth among states in 2024 for the most

1 reported antisemitic incidents. Globally, there has also been an increase
2 in antisemitic incidents; many Jews feel more isolated and vulnerable as
3 a result; and

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

9 WHEREAS, While we are fortunate that several organizations in
10 Colorado are dedicated to retelling the stories of the Holocaust and other
11 genocides, it is not enough; far too many people, including most students,
12 need more opportunities to learn about these atrocities so they are not
13 repeated. To mitigate the issue, on July 8, 2020, Governor Polis signed
14 into law House Bill 20-1336, requiring the satisfactory completion of a
15 course that includes Holocaust and genocide studies as a condition of
16 high school graduation in public schools; and

17 WHEREAS, We recognize the tremendous investment and
18 preparation that Colorado school districts, administrators, and, foremost,
19 classroom educators are putting forth to implement and support House
20 Bill 20-1336 as they ensure the phrase "We remember" will carry
21 meaning and merit for generations of Colorado students; and

22 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to bear witness to the truth of
23 the horrors of the Holocaust, its many lessons, and to prevent hateful
24 words from building up like the bricks that built Auschwitz; now,
25 therefore,

26 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fifth*
27 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

28 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

29 (1) Remember the Holocaust, including survivors Fred Bryner,
30 Samuel Weinberg, and Silvia Weinberg;

31 (2) Promote antibias, bullying prevention, and Holocaust and
32 genocide education programs in school districts and universities to
33 prevent antisemitic incidents that target Jewish students, including
34 targeting based on their actual or perceived support of the state of Israel;

1 and

2 (3) Declare that the people of Colorado should understand the
3 power of words, remember the great injustices of the past, and commit to
4 preventing such atrocities in the future.

5 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
6 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
7 Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
8 Coalition Against Global Genocide; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at
9 the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith
10 Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the Denver Parks and
11 Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States office of the
12 Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in
13 Washington, D.C.; the Colorado Holocaust Educators; and the University
14 of Colorado at Boulder Program in Jewish Studies.