

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R22-0985.01 Asia Merrill x4829

HJR22-1020

---

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Pelton,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fenberg and Gardner,

---

House Committees

Senate Committees

---

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1020

101 CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST.

---

1 WHEREAS, The genesis of genocide begins not with violence but  
2 with words; 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, The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic,  
6 state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by the Nazi regime and  
7 its collaborators in Germany and occupied lands; and

8 WHEREAS, The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in  
9 January 1933, asserted that Germans were racially superior and that Jews  
10 and others were inferior and an alien threat to the so-called German racial  
11 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 antisemitism as a political weapon to gain  
2 popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's problems, including  
3 the country's defeat in World War I, the economic depression, and the  
4 Bolshevik threat of communism; it made little difference that Hitler's  
5 accusations were blatantly contradictory and his so-called facts were  
6 fabricated; and

7           WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its  
8 collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (two out of every three Jews who  
9 lived throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as  
10 5 million other civilians, including Sinti, Roma, people with intellectual  
11 or 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 close  
14 ally and friend of the United States, became a refuge for many survivors  
15 who endured the ravages of the Holocaust and has remained a sanctuary  
16 for Jews worldwide seeking safety ever since; 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 antisemitic acts are not a thing of the  
25 past: According to the Anti-Defamation League, the number of reported  
26 antisemitic incidents in Colorado has reached a 40-year high, with 92  
27 incidents, which is a 53 percent increase from the 60 incidents reported  
28 in 2020; nationally, antisemitic incidents remain at a historically high  
29 level, with well over half of Jewish Americans experiencing or directly  
30 witnessing some form of antisemitic incident; and globally, there has also  
31 been an increase in antisemitic incidents, and some Jews feel more  
32 isolated and vulnerable as a result; and

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

1           WHEREAS, Regretfully, the phrase "Never Again" has become  
2 "Yet Again", as we see today and in the recent past so much brutality in  
3 places like Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Ukraine,  
4 Rwanda, the Central African Republic, Sudan, and South Sudan; and

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

10           WHEREAS, While we are fortunate that several organizations in  
11 Colorado are dedicated to retelling the stories of the Holocaust and other  
12 genocides, it is not enough; far too many people, including most students,  
13 need more opportunities to learn about these atrocities so they are not  
14 repeated; and

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

19           *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third*  
20 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

21           That we, the members of the General Assembly:

22           (1) Commemorate the Holocaust;

23           (2) Promote anti-bias, bullying prevention, and Holocaust and  
24 genocide education programs in school districts and universities to  
25 prevent antisemitic incidents that target Jewish students as a result of their  
26 actual or perceived support of the state of Israel; and

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

30           *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
31 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the  
32 Mountain States regional office of the Anti-Defamation League; the  
33 Coalition Against Global Genocide; the Holocaust Awareness Institute at

1 the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies; the Interfaith  
2 Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the Denver Parks and  
3 Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain States office of the  
4 Jewish National Fund; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in  
5 Washington, D.C.; and the University of Colorado Boulder Program in  
6 Jewish Studies.