

AS ADOPTED BY SENATE, MAY 2, 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

Senators Moss, Brinks, Chang, Geiss, Irwin, McMorrow and Polehanki, Alexander, Ananich, Bayer, Bizon, Bullock, Daley, Hollier, Horn, LaSata, Lucido, McCann, Santana, Theis, Wojno and Zorn 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,

1 lost 90 percent of its Jewish population. Greece, Yugoslavia,
2 Hungary, Lithuania, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Latvia
3 each lost more than 70 percent of their Jewish population; and

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

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

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

27 Whereas, PA 170 of 2016 also created the Governor's Council on
28 Genocide and Holocaust Education, a temporary commission, whose
29 tasks include identifying and notifying schools about resources for

1 teaching about genocide and the Holocaust; and to engender and
2 coordinate events, activities, and education that will
3 appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as
4 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day; now, therefore, be it

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

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