

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R13-0976.01 Meghan O'Connor x4143

**SJR13-026**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-026**

101     **CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF APRIL 7 THROUGH 14, 2013, AS**  
102             **"HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK".**

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1             WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, racism, and hate have been the  
2     cause of conflict, war, and mass atrocities throughout history; and

3             WHEREAS, The Nazi regime was able to exploit severe economic  
4     hardships in the aftermath of World War I to foster prejudice and hatred  
5     toward a group that had historically been used as scapegoats throughout  
6     Europe, culminating in the attempt to exterminate the Jewish population  
7     in Europe, widely known as the Holocaust; and

8             WHEREAS, During the Holocaust, at least 11 million people were  
9     brutally murdered, at least 6 million of whom were Jewish people; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1           WHEREAS, Other marginalized groups such as Soviet prisoners  
2 of war, ethnic Poles, political and religious dissenters, intellectuals,  
3 homosexuals, children and adults with disabilities, and Roma Gypsies  
4 were victims of the Holocaust; and

5           WHEREAS, It is imperative that we and future generations never  
6 forget the tragic lessons to be learned from the organized,  
7 government-sponsored mass killings of the Holocaust; and

8           WHEREAS, The lessons of the Holocaust are becoming more  
9 difficult to teach as survivors continue to pass away and, consequently,  
10 first-hand accounts become more scarce; and

11           WHEREAS, It is also important to remember, honor, and emulate  
12 those righteous people who risked their lives to save thousands of  
13 innocent people during the Holocaust and to learn from their legacy of  
14 courage, selflessness, and hope; and

15           WHEREAS, Many courageous people have been honored with the  
16 designation of "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem, the  
17 Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, for acts of  
18 bravery in saving lives of Jewish people during the Holocaust, reminding  
19 us today of our personal obligations to stand up against prejudice and  
20 discrimination; and

21           WHEREAS, As a common standard of achievement for all people  
22 and nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948  
23 (Declaration) adopted by the United Nations asserts that "recognition of  
24 the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members  
25 of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in  
26 the world"; and

27           WHEREAS, The Declaration notes that "disregard and contempt  
28 for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the  
29 conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings  
30 shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want  
31 has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people"; and

32           WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Declaration, "Member States have  
33 pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations,  
34 the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights

1 and fundamental freedoms"; and

2 WHEREAS, Over half of a century after the conclusion of World  
3 War II, too many of the world's nations have not learned the lessons of  
4 the Holocaust, as demonstrated by recent episodes of ethnic cleansing and  
5 mass killings in so many parts of the world, including Bosnia, Cambodia,  
6 Rwanda, and the Sudan; and

7 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of families, educators, the  
8 many diverse religious communities around the world as well as political  
9 leaders, humanitarians, public officials, and the media to recognize the  
10 Holocaust as both a political and human tragedy and to spread that  
11 knowledge to our younger and future generations; and

12 WHEREAS, It is also imperative that all concerned citizens should  
13 raise awareness and take action regarding current and potential genocides,  
14 organized mass killings, and exterminations; now, therefore,

15 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*  
16 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

17 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

18 (1) Proclaim the week of April 7, 2013, through April 14, 2013,  
19 as "Holocaust Awareness Week"; and

20 (2) Declare that the people of Colorado should use these days to  
21 teach and remember the great injustices of the past, and to commit to  
22 preventing such political and moral atrocities in the future.

23 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
24 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Allied Jewish  
25 Federation of Colorado, the Mountain States Regional Office of the  
26 Anti-Defamation League, the Colorado Coalition for Genocide  
27 Awareness and Action, the Colorado Agency for Jewish Education, the  
28 Holocaust Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for  
29 Judaic Studies, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, and American Jewish  
30 Committee Colorado.