

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

REVISED

LLS NO. R13-0976.01 Meghan O'Connor x4143

SJR13-026

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Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-026

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

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.

HOUSE
Final Reading
April 12, 2013

SENATE
Final Reading
April 11, 2013

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.