

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

Senators Moss, Chang, Cherry and Santana offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize April 18, 2023, as Holocaust
2 Remembrance 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 from 1933-1945; and

7 Whereas, The Holocaust resulted in the extermination of six
8 million Jews and their potential decedents. The world's Jewish
9 population was reduced by one-third; and

10 Whereas, Poland, home to the largest Jewish community before
11 World War II, lost 90 percent of its Jewish population. Greece,

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

17 Whereas, Conspiracies, hatred, and acts of cruelty against
18 Jews still persist today. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported
19 that antisemitic incidents increased 36 percent in 2022, including
20 an increase in assaults by 26 percent, harassment by 29 percent,
21 and acts of vandalism by 52 percent. This data amounts to the
22 highest level of antisemitism the ADL tracked since 1979; and

23 Whereas, The enduring legacy of the Holocaust is to accept and
24 embrace the contributions of diverse populations so that extreme
25 fringes of bigotry and discrimination cannot escalate into horrors
26 of violence and genocide. These lessons must not expire; and

27 Whereas, The state of Michigan, through PA 170 of 2016,
28 requires that the social studies curriculum for grades 8 to 12
29 includes age- and grade-appropriate instruction about genocide so

1 students learn about past atrocities, factually and
2 comprehensively. This education provides future generations the
3 tools to ensure the evils in history are not repeated; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
6 body recognize April 18, 2023, as Holocaust Remembrance Day; and be
7 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.