



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-045

BY SENATOR(S) Bacon, Brophy, Foster, Groff, Harvey, Hodge, Hudak, Kester, Kopp, Mitchell, Newell, Penry, Romer, Scheffel, Shaffer B., Spence, Williams, Boyd, Cadman, Carroll M., Gibbs, Heath, Isgar, Keller, King K., Lundberg, Morse, Renfroe, Sandoval, Schultheis, Schwartz, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, White;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Levy, Acree, Apuan, Balmer, Baumgardner, Bradford, Carroll T., Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kagan, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Massey, McCann, McFadyen, McNulty, Merrifield, Middleton, Miklosi, Pace, Primavera, Rice, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Solano, Todd, Vaad, Waller, Benefield, Casso, Gardner B., Kefalas, Labuda, Lambert, Liston, Looper, Marostica, May, McKinley, Murray, Nikkel, Peniston, Pommer, Priola, Riesberg, Schafer S., Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Tipton, Vigil.

CONCERNING THE DECLARATION OF APRIL 19-26, 2009, AS "HOLOCAUST AWARENESS WEEK".

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

WHEREAS, Adolph Hitler and the Nazi regime were able to exploit severe economic hardships in the aftermath of World War I to foster prejudice, bigotry, and hatred toward a group who had historically been used as scapegoats throughout Europe; and

WHEREAS, The Holocaust is a defining event of the 20th century for many people in the Western world because of the Nazis' attempt to exterminate the Jewish population of Europe; and

WHEREAS, During the Holocaust, at least 11 million people were brutally killed, including 6 million Jewish Europeans; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that we make younger generations aware of the horrors that occurred in the past so that living and future generations may never forget the tragic lessons to be learned from the organized, government-sponsored killing during the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, These lessons of the Nazi era are becoming more difficult to teach as survivors are passing away and first-hand accounts are becoming more scarce; and

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

WHEREAS, From April 15, 2009, to April 30, 2009, an art exhibit entitled "Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews" is on display in the north wing of the first floor of the Colorado State Capitol; and

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

WHEREAS, In 1948, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized that "the inherent dignity and...the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world"; and

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

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Declaration, "Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the

promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms"; and

WHEREAS, Sixty-four years later, the world's nations have not yet fully learned from the Holocaust, as demonstrated by continuing ethnic cleansing and mass killings in many parts of the world such as those that are currently occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan and those that have occurred in the Balkans; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of families, educators, our many diverse faith communities, humanitarians, and the media to teach the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust as both a political and human tragedy; and

WHEREAS, It is also the responsibility of all concerned citizens to raise awareness and take action regarding current and potential genocides and organized mass killing and extermination; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly, proclaim the week of April 19th through April 26th, 2009, as "Holocaust Awareness Week"; and

(2) That we declare that the people of the state of Colorado should use these days to teach and remember the great injustices and genocides in the past, and commit to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado, the Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League, the Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action, the Colorado Agency for Jewish Education, the Holocaust Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies, and the Colorado Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

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PRESIDENT OF
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