

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 72

Reps. Wittenberg and Berman offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare May 2, 2019, as Holocaust Remembrance  
2 Day in the state of Michigan.

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



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

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

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

24       Whereas, PA 170 of 2016 also created the Governor's Council on  
25 Genocide and Holocaust Education, a temporary commission, whose  
26 tasks include identifying and notifying schools about resources for  
27 teaching about genocide and the Holocaust; and to engender and  
28 coordinate events, activities, and education that will  
29 appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as

1 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day; now, therefore, be it  
2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this  
3 legislative body declare May 2, 2019, as Holocaust Remembrance Day  
4 in the state of Michigan; and be it further

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