

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.277

Reps. Steckloff, Weiss, Puri, Pohutsky, Witwer, Haadsma, Koleszar, Ellison, Sabo and Garza offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 28, 2022, as Holocaust
2 Remembrance 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 descendants. The world's Jewish population was reduced by one-
9 third. Poland, home to the largest Jewish community before World
10 War II, lost 90 percent of its Jewish population. Greece,
11 Yugoslavia, Hungary, Lithuania, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Slovakia

1 and Latvia each lost more than 70 percent of their Jewish
2 population; and

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

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

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

26 Whereas, PA 170 of 2016 also created the Governor's Council on
27 Genocide and Holocaust Education, a temporary commission, whose
28 tasks included identifying and notifying schools about resources
29 for teaching about genocide and the Holocaust; and to engender and

1 coordinate events, activities, and education that will
2 appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as
3 observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
5 this legislative body declare April 28, 2022, as Holocaust
6 Remembrance Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

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