



SPONSOR: Rep. Heffernan & Rep. Spiegelman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

ENCOURAGING INSTRUCTION ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE.

1 WHEREAS, genocide is the deliberate and systematic extermination, in whole or in part, of a specific national,
2 religious, political, ethnic, or racial group; and

3 WHEREAS, there is undisputed evidence that the Holocaust did in fact take place, in the twentieth century, from
4 1939-1945; and

5 WHEREAS, the Holocaust serves as the premier frame of reference and springboard from which to teach the
6 lessons to be learned from the ultimate consequences of hatred, discrimination, and indifference; and

7 WHEREAS, more than 12 million civilians were killed from 1939-1945 of which 6 million were members of the
8 Jewish faith, including 1 million innocent Jewish children who were systematically singled out and earmarked for genocide
9 by the Nazi regime and its collaborators; and

10 WHEREAS, the voices of the eyewitnesses to the events of the Holocaust are rapidly fading into history; and

11 WHEREAS, because countless individuals in our society continue to promote various forms of hatred, bigotry,
12 and xenophobia towards select groups, we are obligated to be unyielding in our attempt to raise awareness about the causes,
13 symptoms, and cures of genocide and to allay the voices of those who deny history, so that future generations will not
14 remain silent when confronted with malevolence; and

15 WHEREAS, we, as civilized members of society, must recognize the devastation caused by acts of genocide to
16 safeguard future generations from repeating these acts of brutality; and

17 WHEREAS, genocide has been perpetrated against select groups throughout history, including Native Americans,
18 Armenians, Ukrainians, Cambodians, Africans, the Irish, and Rohingya Muslims; and

19 WHEREAS, teaching the lessons learned from the Holocaust and other genocides helps cultivate the spirit of
20 human resilience, courage, heroism, and tolerance; and

21 WHEREAS, Holocaust and genocide education provides a context to learn about the danger that befalls us when
22 hatred goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of oppression of others; and

23 WHEREAS, the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee provides guidance, academic content
24 assistance, resources, and curricula development to deliver quality Holocaust and genocide education; and

25 WHEREAS, 4 Holocaust education grants of up to \$2,000 will be offered to teachers in Delaware public and
26 private schools for each school year beginning in school year 2019-2020 and each of the 3 consecutive school years
27 thereafter, through the Arnold D. Kerr Holocaust Education Endowment Fund, to teachers who propose Holocaust
28 education programs and activities.

29 NOW, THEREFORE:

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, that
31 education about the Holocaust and genocide is important for students in the State of Delaware.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware encourages teachers to include instruction on the
33 Holocaust and genocide in their classrooms.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware encourages teachers in this State to apply for Holocaust
35 education grants to assist with the preparation of Holocaust education programs and activities.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives send suitable copies of this
37 resolution to the Department of Education, local school districts, and charter schools so that they may be apprised of the
38 sense of the House of Representatives in this matter.

SYNOPSIS

This House Resolution recognizes the importance of Holocaust education because teaching the causes, symptoms, and lessons learned from the Holocaust and other genocides provides a context to learn about the dangers of hatred going unchallenged and indifference in the face of oppression of others and encourages teachers in this State include instruction on the Holocaust and genocide in their classrooms and to apply for Holocaust education grants to support Holocaust education.