

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This resolution highlights the importance of Holocaust and genocide education and encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to emphasize the importance of this course of study.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- describes the components of Holocaust and genocide education;
- explains the importance of Holocaust and genocide education for students, schools, and communities; and
- encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to provide Holocaust and genocide education.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, to counteract and defend humanity against unspeakable acts, we must speak of and learn from past atrocities;

WHEREAS, "Holocaust" means the systemic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately 6,000,000 Jews and 5,000,000 other individuals by the Nazi regime and its collaborators;



WHEREAS, the term genocide was coined specifically to describe the unfathomable depth and breadth of atrocities perpetrated during the Holocaust;

WHEREAS, it is essential to provide students with knowledge of the Holocaust and other genocides to help them make informed choices as citizens and to help root out despicable acts of hatred, anti-Semitism, and other forms of prejudice;

WHEREAS, the study of the Holocaust and other genocides within the context of geography, history, and political systems provides students with essential learning experiences, helping students to:

- ▶ understand the root causes, consequences, and ramifications of prejudice, racism, stereotyping, and discrimination;
- ▶ confront the issues of moral dilemmas and conflicts of conscience posed by the Holocaust and other genocides;
- ▶ learn how the Holocaust contributed to the need for the term "genocide" and led to international legislation that recognized genocide as a crime; and
- ▶ contextualize and illuminate patterns of human behavior by individuals and groups and their choices of roles, including perpetrator, collaborator, bystander, victim, resister, and rescuer;

WHEREAS, the study of the Holocaust and other genocides also sharply illustrates the responsibilities of citizens in democratic societies to combat misinformation, indifference, and discrimination through tools of resistance such as protest, reform, and free and fair elections;

WHEREAS, studying the Holocaust and other genocides helps students learn about transitional and restorative justice, which are powerful tools that help communities and humanity move forward in the aftermath of genocide;

WHEREAS, Holocaust and genocide education encourages students to develop empathy and reaffirms the commitment of free people to never again allow genocides to occur;

WHEREAS, there is a special urgency to teach about the Holocaust while survivors, liberators, and witnesses are still alive;

WHEREAS, Holocaust education teaches universal lessons including: world history, fascism, extremism, the fragility of democracy, the history of the Jewish people, human capacity for the immorality, scapegoating and stereotyping, the role of perpetrators and bystanders, the importance of empathy, diversity, and efforts toward justice;

59 WHEREAS, Holocaust and genocide education can help nurture and protect democratic
60 values and institutions;

61 WHEREAS, the study of these topics can lead students to examine what it means to be
62 a responsible and respectful person and to understand the personal responsibility that all people
63 have to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens; and

64 WHEREAS, the life lessons that students can learn from the study of the Holocaust and
65 other genocides are transferable and beneficial in many areas of study, and these life lessons are
66 central to the State Board of Education's mission and vision of public education:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
68 governor concurring therein, encourages the State Board of Education to continue its practice
69 of adopting K-12 social studies standards that include the study of the Holocaust and other
70 genocides at grade levels appropriate for such study, and in all other subject area standards as
71 suitable.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every local education agency should include
73 instruction on the Holocaust - including the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews
74 and other groups by Nazi Germany and its collaborators - and other genocides for all
75 elementary and secondary school pupils at an appropriate place in the curriculum.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and governor encourage the State
77 Board of Education and local education agencies to continue providing and promoting
78 professional learning activities for educators that include evidence-based pedagogical practices
79 and access to high-quality teacher resources for providing instruction about the Holocaust and
80 other genocides.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and governor encourage local
82 education agencies and educators to use and disseminate instructional best practices and
83 high-quality curricula of appropriate lengths and complexities - coordinated across grade levels
84 and subject areas whenever possible - across the state that could form the basis for a Holocaust
85 and Genocide Studies secondary elective course.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and governor encourage parents
87 and families to reinforce the important lessons learned from this study by promoting civic
88 virtues and beneficial character qualities.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and governor encourage

90 community stakeholders, including parents, to continue collaborating with their local K-12
91 education systems to assess their needs for providing instruction on the Holocaust and other
92 genocides, including: creating an appropriate informational website, promoting appropriate
93 speakers, developing instructional resources, and conducting a teacher needs assessment.

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and governor encourage institutions
95 of higher education in the state to continue and expand programming for study, reflection,
96 remembrance, and action around issues related to the Holocaust and other genocides.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the governor recognize the
98 importance of Holocaust and genocide education in helping the citizens of Utah to unite and to
99 clearly and forcefully resolve that such atrocities will never be repeated.