

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
First Regular Session
2019

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2032

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IN ARIZONA'S SCHOOLS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic
2 persecution and annihilation of European Jews and other groups deemed
3 "undesirable" by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.
4 Under this system, six million Jews, as well as Roma (Gypsies), Poles and
5 people with disabilities, were targeted for destruction or decimation
6 solely for racial, ethnic or national reasons. Millions more, including
7 homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and other
8 political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under
9 Nazi tyranny; and

10 Whereas, during the year leading up to World War II, parents from
11 Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland put their children on trains
12 to the United Kingdom to ensure their escape and survival from the
13 increasing Nazi violence. The children of this organized rescue mission,
14 called the Kindertransport, represented some of the youngest Holocaust
15 survivors and most of them were never reunited with their parents; and

16 Whereas, the number of living Holocaust survivors, as well as their
17 children and liberators, is rapidly diminishing, and this loss of live
18 testimonies increases the likelihood that the historical significance of
19 the Holocaust and its relevance to more recent genocidal conflicts will
20 continue to diminish over time; and

21 Whereas, Holocaust knowledge in the United States is significantly
22 lacking, especially among younger generations, as nearly 22 percent of
23 millennials have not heard of the Holocaust and only about 50 percent
24 identify it as an attempted extermination of the Jewish people; and

25 Whereas, the study of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect
26 on and teach about the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies
27 and governments; and

28 Whereas, nearly 58 percent of Americans believe something like the
29 Holocaust could happen again; and

30 Whereas, comprehensive education about the Holocaust and other
31 genocides is vital to preserving history and the voices of those affected
32 and to deterring such devastating events from being repeated; and

33 Whereas, an abundance of local resources exists for educators and
34 communities to engage in Holocaust remembrance and educational events,
35 including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's special programs,
36 exhibits and biannual trainings for teachers and the Bureau of Jewish
37 Education's annual Educators' Conference on the Holocaust; and

38 Whereas, Arizona is home to the nation's largest annual educational
39 event about genocide, Genocide Awareness Week, which is hosted by
40 Scottsdale Community College. This event presents an occasion for people
41 of all ages and backgrounds to gather, discuss and learn about the
42 Holocaust and other genocides; and

1 Whereas, the Holocaust is not currently a required topic in
2 Arizona's academic standards and is therefore not required to be taught in
3 the state's schools. The State of Arizona, however, has numerous
4 resources to ensure that students can be exposed to this important part of
5 history, including the Anti-Defamation League's Echoes and Reflections
6 teacher lessons and trainings and the Phoenix Holocaust Association's
7 Speakers Bureau, which facilitates speaking engagements by survivors,
8 their families and liberators at Arizona schools.

9 Therefore

10 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
11 the Senate concurring:

12 That the Members of the Legislature express support for educating
13 citizens, particularly this state's schoolchildren in grades eight through
14 twelve, on the Holocaust and other genocides and for ensuring that all
15 educators are knowledgeable and trained on the subject.