

Jewish Federation of
Greater Los Angeles

Jewish Community
Federation of San
Francisco

Jewish Community
Relations Council of
San Francisco, the
Peninsula, Marin,
Sonoma, Alameda,
and Contra Costa
Counties

Jewish Family
Service of Los
Angeles

Jewish Family and
Children's Services of
San Francisco, the
Peninsula, Marin, and
Sonoma Counties

Jewish Family
Service of San Diego

Jewish Federation of
Greater Long Beach
and West Orange
County

Jewish Federation of
Silicon Valley

Jewish Federation of
the Sacramento
Region

Jewish Federation of
Santa Barbara

Jewish Federation
and Family Services
of Orange County

Anti-Defamation
League

American Jewish
Committee LA

30 Years After

Jewish Labor
Committee Western
Region

Hadassah

ETTA Ohel

Bet Tzedek

Jewish Center for
Justice



Floor Alert

May 21, 2018

To: Members of the California State Assembly

From: The Jewish Public Affairs Committee (JPAC)

Subject: AJR 35 (Levine) Polish Legislation: Holocaust Speech – Support

The Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC), is pleased to support AJR 35 (Levine) presented by the California Legislative Jewish Caucus. JPAC is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation, representing Jewish communities and nonprofit organizations throughout California. Our membership is comprised of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, and many Jewish community organizations, and we advocate on behalf of broader community interests in California.

The bill in question, which was approved by the lower house of the Polish parliament on January 26, 2018, the day before International Holocaust Day, amends the Institute of National Remembrance law, and makes it a crime, punishable by up to three years in prison, to use statements suggesting the Polish nation or the Polish state bear any responsibility for crimes against humanity committed by Nazi Germany and grossly diminishing the responsibility of the actual perpetrators of those crimes. As representatives of the California Jewish community, we at JPAC fear that this is an attempt to diminish freedom to research, discuss, and teach about those instances when Jews suffered greatly not at the hands of German Nazi perpetrators but Polish neighbors. We hope that Poland will change this harmful legislation and return on the path of an honest and in-depth examination of the full history of the Holocaust as it took place in Nazi-occupied Poland. As Abraham Foxman wrote in his recent op-ed, "As survivors are passing away, as anti-Semitism is resurging, understanding the Holocaust, including how deeply embedded anti-Semitism in places like Poland contributed to the environment which led to the murder of six million, is more important than ever."

We applaud the Jewish Caucus for vocalizing opposition to Poland's decision to pass this law. For these reasons, JPAC strongly supports AJR 35 (Levine).

We respectfully ask for your "Aye" vote on AJR 35 (Levine).