

## CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH MESSAGES

### TIME FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ACT

#### NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION ACT (S. 2085/H.R. 943) and

##### **I. Outreach on TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act (S. 2179) in the Senate**

I am reaching out to you to request that you cosponsor the TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act (S. 2179), important, bipartisan legislation that was recently introduced by Senators Cardin, Cramer and Rosen. The bill would amend the Older Americans Act to strengthen supportive services to the at-risk and vulnerable population of aging Holocaust survivors.

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators murdered an estimated 6,000,000 European Jews, as well as millions of other minorities. These victims were targeted because of their religious beliefs, national origin, disability, or other status. Millions more were displaced from their homes and many spent years as refugees before resettling in the United States. Most have died, but about 80,000 Holocaust survivors live on in this country—all of them at least 74 years old and many well into their 80s or 90s. Today, one-third of Holocaust survivors in the United States are living in poverty. Many survivors face significant physical and mental health challenges, and experience triggers from daily events.

The **Trauma-Informed Modernization of Eldercare (TIME) for Holocaust Survivors Act** amends the Older Americans Acts to help survivors obtain necessary care; designates a new Administration for Community Living portfolio to focus on Holocaust survivors; and provides nutrition and mobility support for survivors. The legislation also establishes a national resource center to share best practices, transfer knowledge to the broader aging services network, and promote person-centered trauma-informed care for all older adults experiencing the long-term and adverse consequences of trauma.

As Holocaust survivors age and enter their final years, we must provide them with the highest quality of care possible. Your support for the TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act would ensure that necessary social services are shared with Holocaust survivors, allowing them to retain a sense of dignity and strength despite their age, economic, or health status. Please join more than 300 organizations representing every state in the country that support this initiative by cosponsoring the TIME for Never Again Education Act.

##### **II. Outreach for Never Again Education Act in the Senate**

We are experiencing a global increase in antisemitism not seen since World War II and not isolated to one state, or even one country. News from across the globe increasingly depicts Jewish cemetery desecrations and antisemitic slurs, threats and attacks. Most recently, we have experienced the recent horrific attacks at the Chabad Synagogue in Poway, California and the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. The Never Again Education Act, recently introduced in the Senate as S. 2085 by Senators Rosen, Cramer, Rubio and Blumenthal, is one legislative vehicle that we believe will help change this dynamic.

The Never Again Education Act uses public funding and private donations in a classic public-private partnership to provide teachers with the resources they need to teach children the important lessons of the Holocaust and the consequences of bigotry and hate. This bill would expand access to Holocaust and anti-hate education by setting up a program through the U.S. Department of Education to award grants to eligible entities nationwide. These grants would go towards teacher trainings, field trips to local Holocaust museums, access to high-level curricula and more.

Recent studies find that the Holocaust is fading from public memory. A survey by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany shows that two-thirds of millennials cannot identify what Auschwitz was, or name a single concentration camp. Over one-third of all Americans surveyed believe that fewer than two million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. Fifty-eight percent think something like the Holocaust could happen again. The Never Again Education Act will enable the next generation to grow up understanding the Holocaust and what the consequences of apathy, prejudice and hatred can be.

More than 300 organizations representing every state in the country support this deeply bipartisan initiative and S. 2085 mirrors a bill in the House (H.R. 943) that now has more than 225 cosponsors. Please cosponsor the Never Again Education Act and urge Senate leadership to bring this legislation to the floor and pass it expeditiously.

### **III. Outreach for TIME for Holocaust Survivors Act and Never Again Education Act in the Senate**

Seventy-four years ago the Holocaust ended, yet for many Survivors their trauma continues. You can help ensure that Holocaust survivors around the country who need assistance receive all necessary specialized care. Simultaneously, you can help stem the rise in antisemitism, by providing resources to effectively teach students about the Holocaust. I am reaching out today to urge you to cosponsor two pieces of legislation that address these issues relating to the Holocaust.

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators murdered an estimated 6,000,000 European Jews, as well as millions of other minorities. These victims were targeted because of their religious beliefs, national origin, disability, or other status. Millions more were displaced from their homes and many spent years as refugees before resettling in the United States. Most have died, but about 80,000 Holocaust survivors live on in this country—all of them at least 74 years old and many well into their 80s or 90s. Today, one-third of Holocaust survivors in the United States are living in poverty, and many face significant physical and mental health challenges and experience triggers from daily events.

The **Trauma-Informed Modernization of Eldercare (TIME) for Holocaust Survivors Act (S. 2179)**, legislation recently introduced by Senators Cardin, Cramer and Rosen amends the Older Americans Acts to help survivors obtain necessary care; designates a new Administration for Community Living portfolio to focus on Holocaust survivors; and provides nutrition and mobility support for survivors. The legislation also establishes a national resource center to share best practices, transfer knowledge to the broader aging services network, and promote person-centered trauma-informed care for all older adults experiencing the long-term and adverse consequences of trauma.

Although Holocaust survivors have experienced the worst of human depravity, it is still remarkably difficult for all of us to see the resurgence of antisemitism sweeping across the United States and the world. Problematically, this comes at a time when, as shown by recent studies, the Holocaust is fading from public memory. I urge you to confront this problem and help provide middle and high school students with effective Holocaust education by cosponsoring the **Never Again Education Act of 2019** (S. 2085). This bipartisan legislation recently introduced by Senators Rosen, Cramer, Rubio and Blumenthal will provide resources to schools and states to empower them to create more meaningful and effective education surrounding the Holocaust, its implications, and its lessons.

I encourage you to cosponsor both of these important bipartisan bills and join the many other Members of Congress who have already taken these bold steps in assisting Holocaust survivors.

#### **IV. Outreach for Never Again Education Act in the House**

In the wake of rising antisemitism at home and abroad, educating students about the Holocaust is more important than ever. News from across the globe increasingly depicts Jewish cemetery desecrations and antisemitic slurs, threats and attacks. Then the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday, October 27, 2018, marked the most heinous act of antisemitism in U.S. history.

As our elected leader, I count on you to act strongly against hate and anti-Semitism, and **this is why I urge you to cosponsor the Never Again Education Act**. The Never Again Education Act or H.R. 943 would expand and encourage Holocaust education and its lessons for contemporary conflict countrywide. Specifically, it would authorize the U.S. Department of Education to award Holocaust education grants to educational institutions for classes, resources, teacher training, and student field trips.

This bill would not create a federal mandate for Holocaust education. Instead, it would encourage the Secretary of Education to promote and distribute materials to those states and districts who ask for it. By creating a website with high-level Holocaust resources created by top experts in these fields, more schools around the country will have access to greatly needed materials and funds to address these difficult topics.

More than 300 organizations from every state in the country support the Never Again Education Act, and this deeply bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by more than **225** of your colleagues. In order to ensure that we never forget, we must remember the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and educate future generations about the dangers of hate. I urge to you to cosponsor H.R. 943, the Never Again Education Act, today and urge House leadership to bring this legislation to the floor and pass it expeditiously.