

The NEVER AGAIN (HOLOCAUST) EDUCATION ACT OF 2019

Please Cosponsor S. 2085

- There is 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. Now we have experienced the recent tragedies at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and at the Chabad synagogue in Poway, CA.
- The Never Again Education Act is one legislative vehicle that Congress can pass right now to help change this dynamic by exposing students to effective teaching about the Holocaust.
- Recent studies have found that the Holocaust is fading from public memory. A survey by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the “Claims Conference”) 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.
- Unfortunately, teachers face many barriers to teaching the Holocaust including a lack of awareness of where to find resources, a lack of funding to take advantage of these resources, and a lack of knowledge on how to incorporate the subject into their curricula.
- The Never Again Education Act would establish a fund at the U.S. Department of Education to help teachers develop and improve Holocaust education programs. It authorizes \$2 million in federal appropriations for this project for each of the next five years and encourages the acceptance of donations in a classic public-private partnership.
- The Never Again Education Act would provide funding directly to teachers to develop individualized programs that best suit their students. It would cover such expenses as training for educators, textbooks, transportation and housing for teachers to attend seminars, transportation for survivors to be brought to a school, and field trips. It also would create a Holocaust education website as a central hub of resources and best practices for teachers interested in Holocaust education.
- The Never Again Education Act was introduced in the Senate on July 10, 2019 as S. 2085 by Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). Companion legislation, H.R. 943, was introduced earlier this year in the House by Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and this strongly bipartisan House legislation has gained well over 200 co-sponsors. More than 300 national, state and local organizations from each of the 50 states support this program.

Please contact Stephan Kline, Associate Vice President for Public Policy for The Jewish Federations of North America, at Stephan.Kline@JewishFederations.org, with any questions.