



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Submitted by:*

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### **Wisconsin Jewish Community Applauds Passage of Holocaust Education Bill**

The Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, Wisconsin Jewish Conference and Milwaukee Jewish Federation released the following joint statement upon the unanimous vote in the Wisconsin State Assembly today to pass Assembly 55/Senate Bill 69, the Holocaust Education Bill:

Simon Wiesenthal, Holocaust survivor said, “For evil to flourish, it only takes good men to do nothing.” Our organizations applaud the State Assembly for voting unanimously today to send Senate Bill 69, which ensures that all Wisconsin students receive instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides, to the Governor’s desk. This important bill received the support of 80 bipartisan co-sponsors and unanimously passed the State Senate on March 16, 2021.

We offer our tremendous gratitude to Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Representatives Jon Plumer (R-Lodi) and Lisa Subeck (D-Madison) for authoring this historic legislation. We also thank Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) for his strong leadership.

As the only organization in Wisconsin solely dedicated to teaching lessons learned from Holocaust, HERC is poised and ready to serve the needs of our state’s educators and students when the bill is implemented. HERC will provide expertly curated resources and materials to assist Wisconsin’s middle and high school educators at no cost. A new, state-of-the-art digital toolkit for educators will be unveiled this summer, with several educator training workshops offered by HERC staff to assist teachers in using this new resource.

We teach about the Holocaust not only to recognize the past but to safeguard the future from the horrors of unchecked hatred. The lessons of the Holocaust need to be passed on to our youth now more than ever. According to a [recent study](#) of all 50 U.S. states by the Claims Conference, 49% of American Millennials and Gen Z-ers cannot name a single camp or ghetto from the Holocaust; there were over 40,000.

Together, we can remember and learn from the horrors of history to make certain they will never be repeated.

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