

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5247

To provide assistance for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in  
Warsaw, Poland.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the  
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To provide assistance for the Museum of the History of  
Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Support for the Mu-  
5       seum of the History of Polish Jews Act of 2006”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Current and future generations benefit  
9       greatly by visible reminders and documentation of  
10      the historical and cultural roots of their society.

1           (2) It is in the national interest of the United  
2 States to encourage the preservation and protection  
3 of artifacts associated with the heritage of United  
4 States citizens who trace their forbearers to other  
5 countries and to encourage the collection and dis-  
6 semination of knowledge about that heritage.

7           (3) According to the 2000 United States Cen-  
8 sus, nearly 9,000,000 Americans are of Polish an-  
9 cestry.

10          (4) At the beginning of World War II, Poland  
11 had the largest Jewish population in Europe.

12          (5) In 1996, Yeshayahu Weinberg, a founding  
13 director of Tel Aviv's Diaspora Museum and the  
14 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, created  
15 an international team of experts with the goal of es-  
16 tablishing a Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

17          (6) The Museum of the History of Polish Jews  
18 will preserve and present the history of the Jewish  
19 people in Poland and the wealth of their culture  
20 spanning a period of one thousand years.

21          (7) In 1997, the City of Warsaw donated a par-  
22 cel of land, opposite the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising  
23 Memorial, for the explicit use for the Museum of the  
24 History of Polish Jews.

1           (8) In 2005, the Government of Poland and the  
2           City of Warsaw agreed to provide 40,000,000 Polish  
3           zlotys for the construction of the Museum of the  
4           History of Polish Jews.

5           (9) In 2005, an international architectural com-  
6           petition selected a Finnish firm to design the build-  
7           ing for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

8   **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY**  
9                           **OF POLISH JEWS.**

10          (a) IN GENERAL.—Assistance provided by the Bu-  
11          reau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Depart-  
12          ment of State shall be made available to assist in the de-  
13          velopment of the permanent collection of the Museum of  
14          the History of Polish Jews.

15          (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANCE.—To carry out  
16          the purposes of subsection (a), the Secretary of State is  
17          authorized to provide \$5,000,000, which shall remain  
18          available until expended, to the Museum for the History  
19          of Polish Jews.

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