

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2679

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2008

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

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 1,000 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 (10) In 2006, the building for the Museum of
 9 the History of Polish Jews moved into the last phase
 10 of project design.

11 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR THE MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY**
 12 **OF POLISH JEWS.**

13 From funds available to the Secretary of State for
 14 assistance under the Support for East European Democ-
 15 racy (SEED) Act (22 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), the Secretary
 16 may provide up to \$5,000,000 in assistance to fund the
 17 establishment of, and maintain the permanent collection
 18 of, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, located in
 19 Warsaw, Poland.

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