

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 323

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1, 2010

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust survivors in the United States are able to live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years.

Whereas during the Holocaust, which took place between 1933 and 1945, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews and other targeted groups were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators;

Whereas prior to and during World War II, the United States consistently refused to permit large-scale

immigration of Jewish refugees, including the refusal of 936 Jewish refugees on the SS St. Louis in 1939;

Whereas after the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration, labor, and death camps, many Jewish refugees who returned home were the victims of numerous violent pogroms, and those who did not return were housed in displaced persons camps in Europe;

Whereas between 1945 and 1952, approximately 96,000 Holocaust survivors displaced after the end of World War II were admitted to the United States;

Whereas since 1952, more than 100,000 additional Holocaust survivors, including Russian immigrants who suffered from persecution and anti-Semitic acts under the Soviet regime, emigrated to the United States;

Whereas approximately 127,000 Holocaust survivors remain in the United States, and many pass away each year;

Whereas those who survived torture and forced labor under Nazi occupation in concentration, labor, and death camps, as well as those who were forced to flee to a country or region not under Nazi rule or occupation during that time, continue to live with the scars of this unconscionable tragedy;

Whereas all Holocaust survivors are at least 65 years old with approximately three-quarters of them older than 75 and a majority in their 80s and 90s;

Whereas approximately two-thirds of Holocaust survivors are elderly women who have challenges such as family caregiving, face risks such as isolation and financial insecurity, and have specific health needs;

Whereas Holocaust survivors are 5 times more likely to be living below the poverty line than other older people liv-

ing in the United States, and more than half of all Holocaust survivors fall beneath 200 percent of the Federal poverty threshold;

Whereas Holocaust survivors are more reliant on social service programs than most people in the United States over the age of 65, with proportionally more survivors than other older people needing home health care;

Whereas approximately two-thirds of Holocaust survivors live alone, and living alone is a risk factor for institutionalization;

Whereas while institutionalized settings are beneficial for some older people in the United States, institutions have a disproportionate adverse effect on Holocaust survivors by reintroducing the sights, sounds, and routines of institutionalization that are reminiscent of experiences during the Holocaust;

Whereas Holocaust survivors are getting older and frailer, and will be seeking support and assistance from social service providers to enable them to age in place; and

Whereas the United States represents and defends the values of freedom, liberty, and justice and has a moral obligation to acknowledge the plight and uphold the dignity of Holocaust survivors to ensure their well-being in their remaining years: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) supports the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust survivors in the United States are able to live
4 with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years;
5 ing years;

1 (2) applauds the nonprofit organizations and
2 agencies that work tirelessly to honor and assist
3 Holocaust survivors in their communities;

4 (3) urges the Administration and the Depart-
5 ment of Health and Human Services, in conjunction
6 with the Administration on Aging (AoA), to provide
7 Holocaust survivors with needed social services
8 through existing programs; and

9 (4) encourages the Administration on Aging to
10 expeditiously develop and implement programs that
11 ensure Holocaust survivors are able to age in place
12 in their communities and avoid institutionalization
13 during their remaining years.

Passed the House of Representatives December 1,
2010.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.