

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 36

Expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to that goal through a financial commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 2016

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to reaffirm its commitment to that goal through a financial commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

Whereas the annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews during the Holocaust and the murder of millions of others by the Nazi German state constitutes one of the most tragic and heinous crimes in human history;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Jews survived persecution by the Nazi regime despite being imprisoned, subjected to slave labor, moved into ghettos, forced to live in hiding or under false identity or curfew, or required to wear the “yellow star”;

Whereas in fear of the oncoming Nazi Einsatzgruppen, or “Nazi Killing Squads”, and the likelihood of extermination, hundreds of thousands of Jewish Nazi victims fled for their lives;

Whereas whatever type of persecution suffered by Jews during the Holocaust, the common thread that binds Holocaust victims is that they were targeted for extermination and they lived with a constant fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas Holocaust victims immigrated to the United States from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and the former Soviet Union between 1933 and the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas it is estimated that there are at least 100,000 Holocaust victims living in the United States and approximately 500,000 Holocaust victims living around the world, including child survivors of the Holocaust;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust victims are at least 80 years old, and the number of surviving Holocaust victims is diminishing;

Whereas at least 50 percent of Holocaust victims alive today will pass away within the next decade, and those living victims are becoming frailer and have increasing health and welfare needs;

Whereas Holocaust victims throughout the world continue to suffer from permanent physical and psychological injuries

and disabilities and live with the emotional scars of a systematic genocide against the Jewish people;

Whereas many of the emotional and psychological scars of Holocaust victims are exacerbated in the old age of the Holocaust victims;

Whereas the past haunts and overwhelms many aspects of the lives of Holocaust victims when their health fails them;

Whereas Holocaust victims suffer particular trauma when their emotional and physical circumstances force them to leave the security of their homes and enter institutional or other group living residential facilities;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust victims live in poverty and cannot afford, and do not receive, sufficient medical care, home care, mental health care, medicine, food, transportation, and other vital life-sustaining services that allow individuals to live their final years with comfort and dignity;

Whereas Holocaust victims often lack family support networks and require social worker-supported case management in order to manage their daily lives and access government-funded services;

Whereas in response to a letter sent by Members of Congress to the Minister of Finance of Germany in December 2015 relating to increased funding for Holocaust victims, German officials acknowledged that “recent experience has shown that the care financed by the German Government to date is insufficient” and that “it is imperative to expand these assistance measures quickly given the advanced age of many of the affected persons”;

Whereas German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer acknowledged, in 1951, the responsibility of Germany to provide moral and financial compensation to Holocaust victims worldwide;

Whereas every successive German Chancellor has reaffirmed that acknowledgment, including Chancellor Angela Merkel, who, in 2007, reaffirmed that “only by fully accepting its enduring responsibility for this most appalling period and for the cruelest crimes in its history, can Germany shape the future”; and

Whereas Congress believes it is the moral and historical responsibility of Germany to comprehensively, permanently, and urgently provide resources for the medical, mental health, and long-term care needs of all Holocaust victims: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) acknowledges the financial and moral com-
4 mitment of the Federal Republic of Germany during
5 the 7 decades prior to the date of adoption of this
6 resolution to provide a measure of justice for Holo-
7 caust victims;

8 (2) supports the goal of ensuring that all Holo-
9 caust victims in the United States and around the
10 world are able to live with dignity, comfort, and se-
11 curity in their remaining years;

12 (3) applauds the nonprofit organizations and
13 agencies that work tirelessly to honor and assist

1 Holocaust victims in the communities of the non-
2 profit organizations and agencies;

3 (4) acknowledges the ongoing process of nego-
4 tiations between the Federal Republic of Germany
5 and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims
6 Against Germany (referred to in this resolution as
7 the “Claims Conference”) in order to secure funding
8 for Holocaust victims and for vital social services
9 provided through nonprofit organizations and agen-
10 cies around the world;

11 (5) acknowledges that the Federal Republic of
12 Germany and the Claims Conference have estab-
13 lished a new high-level working group that will de-
14 velop proposals for extensive assistance for homecare
15 and other social welfare needs of Holocaust victims;

16 (6) urges the working group described in para-
17 graph (5) to recognize the imperative to immediately
18 and fully fund medical, mental health, and long-term
19 care needs of surviving Holocaust victims, with full
20 transparency and accountability, to ensure all funds
21 for Holocaust victims from the Federal Republic of
22 Germany are administered efficiently, fairly, and
23 without delay; and

1 (7) urges the Federal Republic of Germany to
2 reaffirm its commitment to fulfill its moral responsi-
3 bility to Holocaust victims by—

4 (A) ensuring that each Holocaust victim
5 receives all of the prescribed medical care, home
6 care, mental health care, and other vital serv-
7 ices necessary to live in dignity; and

8 (B) providing, without delay, additional fi-
9 nancial resources to address the unique needs
10 of Holocaust victims.

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