



SJ0068

LRB098 13265 MST 56039 r

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, As a means of memorializing the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides that have occurred throughout history, the Illinois General Assembly joins institutions around the world in recognizing April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month; and

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WHEREAS, The goal of Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month is to educate the public about the history of previous and contemporary genocides, the dangers of unchallenged hate and indifference, and the need to encourage citizen engagement through advocacy and action against future genocides; and

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WHEREAS, Many of these genocides have stemmed from events that occurred in the month of April, or have defining moments at that time of year, including Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur; and

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WHEREAS, In 2005, the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Study Mandate was adopted so that every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum, a unit of instruction studying the events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945, and an additional unit of instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe; and

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1           WHEREAS, In 2010, the Illinois Legislature passed the  
2 Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission Act, which created  
3 the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission; the commission  
4 is dedicated to promoting and providing guidance on Holocaust  
5 and genocide education and commemoration across the State; and

6           WHEREAS, Many Illinois residents have endured acts of  
7 genocide and atrocities in their countries of origin; and

8           WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly condemns and  
9 desires to combat all acts of genocide and atrocities; and

10           WHEREAS, Educating the public about the evils of genocide  
11 and commemorating victims of genocide, including the adoption  
12 of a Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month, are effective  
13 tools that will further these goals; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
16 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate April 2014 as Genocide  
17 Awareness and Prevention Month.