

To: Vermont House Education Committee Members

From: Debora Steiner, Vermont Holocaust Memorial

Date: April 26, 2024

Re: Section 4 of S.167

I would like to bring the following additional information to your attention:

Never Again Education Act and Never Again Education Reauthorization Act 2023 –

These bipartisan federal bills dedicate funds to expand the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s educational programming. They require the museum to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to improve awareness and understanding of the Holocaust.

They also authorize various educational program activities to engage prospective and current teachers and educational leaders.

The Reauthorization Act 2023 extends the program through 2030.

Claims Conference 50 State Survey on Holocaust Knowledge of American Millennials and Gen Z

This 2020 national study found critical gaps in Holocaust knowledge and awareness.

Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of U.S. Millennials and Gen Z do not know that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust.

Additionally, a majority of U.S. Millennials and Gen Z (59 percent) believe that something like the Holocaust could happen again today.

Vermont specific findings:

Can’t name a concentration camp, death camp or ghetto: 42%

Did not know what Auschwitz was: 29%

Believe 2 million or fewer Jews were killed: 29%

Did not know that 6 million Jews were killed: 65%

Have seen Holocaust denial or distortion on social media or elsewhere online: 43%

Have seen Nazi symbols on the social media platforms they have visited in the past 5 years: 52%

Believe it is important to continue teaching about the Holocaust, in part, so it doesn’t happen again: 79%

Think Jews caused the Holocaust: 7%
