

NEWS ...

from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 14, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Governor to Sign Feigenholtz's Illinois Holocaust Commission Legislation into Law

Legislator believes Illinoisans will develop a better understanding of prejudice, racism and stereotyping

CHICAGO – State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) sponsored House Bill 6059 to create the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission, which Governor Quinn will sign into law Thursday at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois.

“Today, we continue our fight to raise awareness of these atrocities through this important new commission,” Feigenholtz said. “This legislation effectively memorializes one of the saddest eras in human history and will help us reflect, heal and learn from the past. We must always remember that the Holocaust was a state-sponsored and bureaucratic persecution and murder of approximately six million people by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.”

House Bill 6059 creates the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission to provide educational programming, plan activities and organize events related to the Holocaust. Furthermore, the Commission will be charged with providing advice to public and private institutions regarding the implementation of Holocaust and genocide education into school curriculum. Commission members will also help organizations throughout the state promote awareness memorializing the Holocaust and past issues of genocide.

“The potential impact of the new Commission is significant. It will bring greater awareness and understanding of the consequences of hate and indifference to every corner of our state and will unite diverse communities scarred by human rights atrocities,” said Richard Hirschhaut, Executive Director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. “In choosing the Museum as the venue for enacting this important legislation, Governor Quinn honors the memories of those who were lost, as well as the dignity of those who survived the Holocaust and other genocides.”

House Bill 6059 passed unanimously last spring in both the House and Senate.

For more information on this bill or other state-related issues, please call Representative Feigenholtz's constituent service office at (773) 296-4141. Feigenholtz represents the 12th District, which includes parts of the near north neighborhoods.

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