



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8285

Committees:

Finance – General Government & Agency Review
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Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

Michael A. Rulli
State Senator
33rd Senate District

SPONSOR TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 372
Senator Michael A. Rulli
11/17/20

Chairman Dolan and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 372. Working alongside Ohio Jewish Communities, Senate Bill 372 was drafted to establish a Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission in Ohio.

I read a troubling article a few weeks back entitled, *Ohio 32nd in Holocaust knowledge among millennials, Gen Z*, which prompted me to work with Ohio Jewish Communities to draft a bill that would address this troubling revelation.

The aim of this legislation is to help cultivate our youth's knowledge and understanding of one of the most tragic occurrences in history, primarily so that it may never happen again. In the attached article, there is a long list of troubling statistics, which indicate a tragic misunderstanding of even the most basic facts about the Holocaust. Two in particular stood out as they represented almost half of the youth in Ohio: **"While there were more than 40,000 camps and ghettos during World War II, 46% of the respondents in Ohio could not name a single one. Additionally, 64% of respondents in Ohio did not know that 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust."**

Article: https://www.columbusjewishnews.com/news/local_news/ohio-32nd-in-holocaust-knowledge-among-millennials-gen-z/article_1a9fb12c-f6cb-11ea-be7d-0be0a440f599.amp.html

If Senate Bill 372 is passed, the commission will be comprised of two appointed members from the majority and minority parties from both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives, eight appointed members by the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of Higher Education and the Director of Veterans Services.

Given the heightened tension in our nation at the moment, I believe now more than ever we need to let everyone, especially our children, know how horrors like the Holocaust can be perpetrated by even the most civilized and sophisticated people.

Thank you for allowing me to present this important legislation. I would be glad to answer any questions from the committee, and provide any follow up information.