

Senator Millett, Representative Kornfield and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs: My name is Trinity Montigny and I am here to testify in support of LD 1050, "An Act to Require Education about the Holocaust.

For the first half of this school year I was enrolled in the Holocaust and Genocide elective class that Mrs. Omlor teaches at my school. This class didn't just teach me and my classmates about the Holocaust and historical events, it taught us about different morals, values, prejudice and racism. The subject of the Holocaust provides the basis for examining simple and complex moral issues. One of the biggest takeaways from learning about the Holocaust was how teaching students about the Holocaust can provide them with costly examples of the detrimental effects of bullying and racism. Additionally, discussing such topics helps students develop their own critical thinking about morality and how they can spread tolerance in the world. Every generation should become more tolerant, understanding, and loving of everyone else. We're all human and no one can take that away from us. We should be taught about the Holocaust to remember the lives that were lost during the Holocaust; to continue to fight for the millions of Jewish people and the millions of others who the Nazis attempted to dehumanize for years. It is our job to continue to better the world, and to do this we must be educated about the horrors the world has created, is creating, and will continue to create if we don't stop it.