

# THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

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## A tragedy which never should be forgotten

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Legislation was signed during the summer to expand the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission. The goal of the measure is to increase the commission's ability to reach even more people across Illinois with its message.

The commission works with Holocaust survivors to increase public awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides through educational programs, events and outreach efforts.

"It is important that we never forget the millions of lives lost not only in the Holocaust, but all terrible acts of genocide throughout history," Gov. Pat Quinn said.

"The Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission works to ensure tolerance among our future generations. I urge all residents to strive to overcome hate and indifference through learning and acceptance."

Senate Bill 3129, was sponsored by State Sen. Ira Silverstein, D-Chicago, and State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago. The legislation increases the number of commission members from 18 to 22, and ensures that one of them is a student.

*'We must never forget this tragedy. We must work together to prevent genocide from ever happening.'*

The Holocaust and Genocide Commission was created in July 2010. Members consist of Holocaust and other genocide survivors, liberators and other volunteers to share their knowledge and experiences in order to increase public awareness. The commission also holds events to memorialize the Holocaust and other genocides. The new law took effect immediately.

"This law allows the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission to continue educating Illinois residents about crimes against humanity," Silverstein said. "We must never forget this tragedy. We must work together to prevent genocide from ever happening."

Illinois was the first state in the nation to mandate public elementary schools and high schools include a study of Holocaust history in its curriculum.

