

Dear Governor Insley,

My name is Isaac Hoffman, and I'm in 8th grade and go to Torah Day School of Seattle. In the past few years, you passed a Holocaust education bill strongly encouraging schools to add the Holocaust to their curriculum. But is that even enough? I think that teaching about the Holocaust should be required in every 5-12 curriculum. I believe that 5th grade is the appropriate age to start learning about these terrifying events that happened less than 100 years ago, an event that changed the course of history for an entire people.

Learning about the Holocaust is very important. Not even one hundred years ago, eleven million people were killed, six million of them Jews. Imagine your family is killed for no other reason than being Jewish. The Holocaust was the largest genocide in history. People need to know about this and be educated. In some schools, the Holocaust is just a small part of a world history class. Some people might argue that it's too long of a course to teach but the course is worth the time and effort. If people aren't educated this could happen again.

People need to know about people like Mel Wolf who spent five years in concentration and labor camps, surviving the worst hardships someone could suffer and still making it out as a free man. Mel Wolf who survived years of starvation and unbearable working conditions under the boot of Nazis. He came to Seattle to live out the rest of his life. There are many more people like him who have experienced these atrocities and survived. There are countless other Washington residents who survived the Holocaust and more around the world. We should know their stories; everyone should know their stories.

All public schools are required to teach about the camps Japanese Americans were held in during World War II, but not about the camps that murdered or worked to death Jews, Roma, disabled people, and more groups. I don't ask that you replace that subject. I ask that you also teach about the Holocaust and the discrimination of Jews and the atrocities committed by the Nazis. An NBC News survey of Holocaust knowledge among millennial and Gen-Z adults ages 18-39, found that 63% of the people surveyed didn't know that 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust and over half thought the death toll was under two million. This is why we need to teach about it, so people understand the massive scale of this genocide.

You can even see how anti-Semitism still exists today. In a hate crime report conducted by the FBI in 2019, it was found that of the 20% of hate crime victims who were targeted for their religion, 60.2% were targeted for being Jewish. Jewish people are the number one targeted people for religious hate crimes in the US which is terrible and sad to think of. In another report conducted by the FBI it was found that there were 1,715 victims of these crimes in 2019. Not just in the US, but around the whole world there are thousands more victims of anti-Semitism

I hope you will agree with me and others that Holocaust education should be required in every public school in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Isaac Hoffman

Sources for information

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/survey-finds-shocking-lack-holocaust-knowledge-among-millennials-gen-z-n1240031>

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/topic-pages/victims>

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/tables/table-1.xls>