



LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS HADASSAH DAY ON THE HILL | MAY 17, 2018

*Hadassah advocates on issues important to women and the Jewish community. Today we are here to encourage **your continued support for Israel**, and urge you to **combat anti-Semitism and gun violence**, and **promote women's health equity**— from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure.*

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America & Hadassah Medical Organization

- At over 100 years old, Hadassah, is the largest women's Zionist organization in the United States.
- We promote meaningful philanthropy, hands-on volunteerism, and women's empowerment for our over **330,000 supporters—found across every congressional district**.
- **This year we are celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO)**. During the last 100 years, HMO grew from a small medical delegation into two world-renowned research hospitals in Jerusalem that treat over one million patients a year.
- HMO was nominated for Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 for its work building “bridges to peace” – treating patients regardless of race, religion or nationality, has a diverse staff, partnerships with other medical institutions throughout the region, and humanitarian missions around the world.
- **During your next visit to Israel, we would love to arrange a tour of our hospitals for you.**

Support for Israel and the Jewish Community

- We applaud the historic foreign aid to Israel in the 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill. Hadassah encourages Congress to maintain bipartisan support for Israel and America's commitment to **foreign aid, security cooperation, economic partnerships, other collaborative initiatives**.
- The U.S. must combat the appalling rise in anti-Semitism – at home and abroad – through strong leadership, education, and international cooperation.
 - We urge you to cosponsor and support the **Never Again Education Act (H.R. 5460)**. Hadassah is working side-by-side with Congresswoman Maloney on this bill to authorize Holocaust education grants, funded by private donations, to educational institutions offering classes, resources, teacher training, and student field trips.
 - We also urge you to cosponsor and support the **Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 (H.R. 1911 | S. 1292)** and other anti-Semitism legislation.

Women's Health Equity

Congress must protect women's health and work toward a **quality, affordable, and equitable health care system for all**.

- Hadassah is the convener of the **Coalition for Women's Health Equity**. These 28 national women's and health organizations raise awareness about women's health disparities – in research, prevention, and access to care– and promotes policies to improve women's health.
- We urge you to cosponsor and support the **Health Equity and Accountability Act**, which aims to eliminate health disparities; increase health care quality and access for racial, ethnic, and other minority communities; and improve health outcomes for women, children, and families.

Gun Violence

Hadassah advocates for common sense gun safety legislation, and stricter enforcement of current laws, to protect our communities and our nation.

- We call on Congress to **eliminate the Dickey Amendment**, which prevents any CDC funding to be used toward the study of firearms or gun control, and allocate funds to this essential research (H.R. 1832).
- We also urge Senators to cosponsor and support the **STOP (Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing) School Violence Act of 2018 (H.R. 4909)**.



BACKGROUNDER NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION ACT

Hadassah has been instrumental in garnering bipartisan support for the Never Again Education Act (H.R. 5460), working closely with Congresswoman Maloney to make sure that this important piece of legislation is passed. During your Day on the Hill meetings, we ask that you bring up this bill, as it is one of our main advocacy priorities of 2018. Below is up-to-date information from Congresswoman Maloney's office on the bill's purpose, structure and benefits so you can walk into your meeting feeling confident and informed.

Objective: Establish a program at the Department of Education to help more middle and high schools educate their students about the Holocaust. **This program will be paid for by private donations.**

What the bill does:

- Establishes a federal fund at the Department of Education, the "Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund", which will be paid for by private donations. The fund will finance grants to public and private middle and high schools to help teachers develop and improve Holocaust education programs.
- Gives funding directly to teachers to develop individualized programs that best suit their students' needs.
- Expenses include training for educators, textbooks, transportation and housing for teachers to attend seminars, transportation for survivors to be brought to a school, and field trips.
- Creates a Holocaust Education website as a central hub of resources and best practices for teachers interested in Holocaust education.
- Curriculum experts at the Department of Education will work with trained Holocaust educators to conduct regional workshops that help teachers work within their state and local education requirements to incorporate the sensitive subject of the Holocaust into their classrooms.
- Creates an Advisory Board to help develop the competitive criteria for grants, select the content for the website, and lead fundraising efforts for the program.
- Encourages State education agencies to work with schools and take advantage of the program.
- Prioritizes grants to schools with no current Holocaust education programs.

Benefits:

- Teachers face many barriers to teaching the Holocaust: a lack of awareness of where to find resources, a lack of funding to take advantage of these resources, and a lack of knowledge for how to incorporate the subject into their curriculums. This program will help teachers overcome these barriers at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- Private Holocaust education centers provide valuable training programs, curriculum and other resources, but are limited to helping the schools in their area. This program will help these centers reach a broader audience, and provide teachers with the tools to educate students in communities across the country.
- This program will finally recognize the importance of Holocaust education at the federal level and teach our children about the valuable lessons from the Holocaust.