April 20, 2020

Dear Senators,

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, is doing its part to help save lives. We are taking extraordinary precautions to ensure that our communities stay safe and continue to support the life-saving care and groundbreaking medical research at Hadassah’s two hospitals in Jerusalem as well as strong U.S.-Israel cooperation and coordination in this uncertain time.

Protecting the public health and restoring our economy are of paramount importance. But in the midst of this pandemic, we must not lose sight of other priorities that support the security of the United States.

The horrific attacks last year have not been slowed by the pandemic. In fact, the virus has created new opportunities for hatred and violence. Just last month, leaders of neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups instructed their members to spread the COVID-19 virus to police officers and Jews if they became infected. In Philadelphia, a Jewish day school was the target of a white supremacist group in an online harassment campaign. And across the nation, synagogues, schools and even private homes are routinely targeted.

Today, the Jewish community marks Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – which coincides with the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. As we remember the past and look forward with hope, we’re increasingly worried about the anti-Semitic behavior plaguing America. We deserve better. Our children deserve better. That’s why the Senate must act now and pass the Never Again Education Act.

Education is the solution to combating bigotry and hatred, and there is no greater vehicle for instilling these critical lessons than the Holocaust. Unfortunately, the Holocaust is increasingly becoming a forgotten part of our history and has opened the door for hatred to take root. Compounding the challenge, educators often lack the resources and training to teach students about the Holocaust appropriately and accurately.

The Never Again Education Act solves this by providing much-needed funding for educators to better equip themselves. Understanding the origins of the Holocaust will undoubtedly help us pave the way to a more tolerant society. This is what our future generations deserve.
The Never Again Education Act passed out of the House 393-5 and currently has majority co-sponsorship in the Senate, but has not yet been brought to the Senate floor for a vote. We do not have time to waste. The Senate should join the House today in sending clear and unequivocal message that our country is a place of tolerance and inclusiveness.

This is our last best chance to make a significant and lasting impact against the rising tide of hatred in our country. It is imperative that the Senate pass this bill.

If you have any questions about the Never Again Education Act, or if there are ways in which Hadassah can play a constructive role in our response to the pandemic, please contact Karen Paikin Barall, Director for Government Relations at Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. at kbarall@hadassah.org.

Thank you for your consideration and for all of your hard work during this extraordinary time.

Sincerely,

Rhoda Smolow
National President
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Janice Weinman
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.