January 27, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association who teach and support students in schools and on college campuses in 14,000 communities, we urge you to vote YES on the Never Again Act of 2020 (H.R. 943). Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA’s Report Card for the 116th Congress.

This marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, yet anti-Semitic acts are on the rise across the globe—including in America. An article today in The Atlantic states: “…anti-Semitism has returned, in part because the general public’s knowledge about the Holocaust—of what exactly it was, who exactly was murdered in it, how many were killed, and how anti-Semitism spawned it—has diminished.” The Never Again Act of 2020 will not only raise awareness of the Holocaust and the Nazis’ racist ideology; the legislation also will help cultivate in students empathy and understanding that may keep them from committing anti-Semitic acts themselves, and encourage them to speak out to prevent others from engaging in anti-Semitism.

The bipartisan Never Again Act will assist educators by:

- Providing funds to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to develop and disseminate digital and print resources and traveling exhibitions about the Holocaust and for creating a special section designated for Holocaust education on the museum website;
- Providing grants to educators for learning and implementing good pedagogical principles for Holocaust education;
- Providing professional development, such as workshops and teacher training, for educators in conjunction with Holocaust education centers; and
- Encouraging the federal government, through supporting the educational activities of national museums, to assist educators in teaching about human rights atrocities, including the Holocaust.

At a time of rising intolerance, it is crucial that we not allow the Holocaust to recede from our collective memory and consciousness. We urge you to support the Never Again Act so that young people may learn about the Holocaust and gain an appreciation of the awful cost of hatred.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association