



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Gina
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Johnsen
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Representative Samantha Steckloff
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
The Zekelman Holocaust Center
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
n/a
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Samantha Steckloff, 19th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
The purpose of this proposed legislatively directed spending item is to provide \$1.5 million in operational support to The Zekelman Holocaust Center (doing business as The Holocaust Memorial Center) to expand its educational outreach and impact across the state of Michigan. As the state's official nexus for Holocaust education, established by Public Act 170, the Center currently serves more than 100,000 Michigan residents annually through educational tours, teacher training, student workshops, and public programming. The requested funding will help meet increasing demand for these services

by supporting organizational growth and statewide engagement with middle and high school students, college and university students, and professionals from a range of sectors.

Founded in 1984 by Holocaust survivors in Michigan, the Center continues to serve as a vital educational institution dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and promoting awareness of its lessons. In 2024, it launched a new permanent exhibit that enhances the educational experience by amplifying the voices of victims and survivors. This launch coincides with a troubling rise in antisemitism and a widespread public recognition of the need for Holocaust education as a tool to combat hatred, foster empathy, and support inclusive communities. Legislative support will allow the Center to increase attendance at teacher trainings, construct and deploy a traveling exhibit to underserved regions of the state, expand its programming to 47 colleges and universities with a goal of reaching 11,000 college students by 2028, and build the operational capacity needed to fulfill an increasing number of programming requests.

This proposed legislatively directed spending item is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding because it supports an educational and civic mission that benefits the public good. The Zekelman Holocaust Center is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization serving a diverse audience and providing critical instruction on historical awareness, democratic values, and civil society. No portion of the funding will be used for private benefit.

Accordingly, this appropriation would fully comply with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits the use of public funds for private purposes. All expenditures will be directed to public education, cultural programming, and statewide outreach, in full alignment with constitutional requirements and the Center's mission to engage, educate, and empower through remembrance.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

1500000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State","Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Gary Karp, President; Steve D. Grant, M.D., Chairman; David Kramer, Secretary; Larry Kraft, Vice President; Steven R. Weisberg, Vice President; Alan Zekelman, Treasurer; Mindi Fynke, Member-at-Large; Kari Alterman; Rick Brodsky; Betty Chu, M.D.; Leo Eisenberg; Susan Feber; Darren Findling; Tamara Gorosh; Kenneth Goss; Anna Gotlieb; Adam Grant; Irvin Kappy, M.D.; Bernie Kent; Arie Leibovitz; Spencer Partrich; Elaine Serling; Sam Shamie; Sherry Shanbom; Alex Shiffman; Arthur J. Weiss

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

10/1/25-10/1/26

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

Dear Members of the House of Representatives,

Thank you for partnering with The Zekelman Holocaust Center to ensure generations learn the lessons of the Holocaust and their universal relevance for today.

Below is our request and funding breakdown:

Scope of work: The Zekelman Holocaust Center (DBA “The Holocaust Memorial Center”) respectfully requests a \$X appropriation for operational costs necessary to further our outreach and our impact. As the nexus for Holocaust education in the state (Public Act 170), we serve more than 100,000 Michigan citizens annually through tours, training, workshops and programs. To meet increasing demand, we are expanding our efforts to reach not only tens of thousands of middle and high school students, but also thousands of university and college students, as well as professionals in every sector.

Details: Founded in 1984 by local Holocaust survivors intent on creating a lasting memorial, The Zekelman Holocaust Center opened a brand new permanent exhibit in 2024, one that elevates the voices of victims and survivors in the storytelling. The timing coincided with a marked increase in antisemitism, regarded by a majority of Americans as a [serious problem](#), and a sense of urgency to respond with education. When we equip and empower individuals with the lessons of history, we can shape environments that are truly welcome to all who call Michigan home.

Proposed outcomes:

- Achieve 25 percent increase in new and returning attendance for teacher training
- Construct and transport traveling exhibit to bring education to all parts of the state
- Expand adult education to 47 college and universities across Michigan, reaching 11,000 college students by 2028
- Build organizational capacity to fulfill increased programming requests

Legislative support strengthens our foundation and advances our mission to engage, educate and empower by remembering the Holocaust. Together, we can honor the words of local Holocaust survivor Jack Gun, who said, "The world can be a better one, not the one I lived through."

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eli Mayerfeld". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eli Mayerfeld, CEO

**Preserving Memory,
Promoting Education,
Inspiring Action**



The Zekelman Holocaust Center's Mission

The HC's mission is to engage, educate, and empower by remembering the Holocaust. Our objective is for individuals and society to recognize acts of antisemitism, discrimination, and hate-based violence and work together and individually to reduce and ultimately prevent such acts.

Our Impact



100,000+ Michigan citizens served annually
through tours, workshops and programs



23,000 middle and high school students,
who learn to stand up and speak out



Eastern Michigan University students
during a docent-led tour at The HC

Educational Programs

- Summer Academy Teacher Training
- Next Generation Speaker Presentations
- Police Academy Workshops

Community Engagement

Customized tours and training empower visitors from every sector to make connections to their own lives and their responses to intolerance today.

Throughout the year, The HC fosters meaningful community conversations, hosting public programs about history, memory and civic discourse.

Colleges & Universities

Not all students encounter Holocaust education in their courses. Access to education expands their horizons and prepares them to become active participants in society. Fostering empathy and critical thinking among students and faculty on college campuses statewide has become central to our efforts. We will reach populations through:

- Classrooms
- Public lectures
- Athletics
- Greek life
- ROTC

Three-year goal:

11,000 students at **47** colleges
and universities across Michigan



For more information and to
support our mission, visit:
www.HolocaustCenter.org

**THE Zekelman
HOLOCAUST
CENTER**

The Zekelman Holocaust Center
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Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248.553.2400