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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sen. Berman & Rep. Harris Re-File Legislation to Proclaim "Holocaust Remembrance

Day" in the State of Florida

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## Senator Lori Berman and Representative Harris Re-File Legislation to Proclaim "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in the State of Florida

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** - On the anniversary of Kristallnacht, **State Senator Lori Berman (D- Palm Beach)** and **State Representative Rita Harris (D - Orlando)** re-filed **Senate Bill 396** and **House Bill 387**, which would annually proclaim "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in the State of Florida.

If passed, <u>SB 396/HB 387</u> would require the Governor to annually proclaim "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in public buildings and schools. "Holocaust Remembrance Day" would be recognized during Florida's <u>Holocaust Education Week</u>, which coincides with the anniversary of Kristallnacht, an event that is seen as the catalyst to the Holocaust.

"Given the alarming rise in anti-Semitism, it's vital that the state of Florida takes every available measure to continue education on the history of the Holocaust. I am proud to sponsor this legislation with Representative Harris and look forward to bipartisan support from both chambers" said **Senator Berman** 

According to the <u>Anti-Defamation League</u>, extremist anti-Semitic events have been on the rise in Florida and across the country in recent years. Since 2020, harassment, vandalism, and assault rooted in anti-Semitism have more than doubled in Florida. State lawmakers have recently passed legislation to condemn anti-Semitism, though the sponsors believe local action is needed as anti-Semitism on the rise.

"Over the last few years, we've seen an increase in anti-Semitic activity in the State of Florida. My District, which is home to a diverse and dynamic community, has been targeted more than once with anti-Semitic literature drops, hateful graffiti in schools, and families being harassed outside of a Chabad. It is important that we continue to

take a stance that not only recognizes the Holocaust, but the continued effects of anti-Semitism on our communities," said **Representative Harris.** 

If passed, Holocaust Remembrance Day would be recognized annually in November. Florida's legislative session is set to begin on January 9, 2024.

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