

House Resolution 6 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY WILLS, NORDMAN, P. THOMPSON, YOUNG, SORENSEN,
RINKER, DUNWELL, GOLDING, GEHLBACH, HAYES,
STOLTENBERG, M. THOMPSON, SHERMAN, ANDREWS, HORA,
FISHER, MOORE, HENDERSON, GUSTOFF, and LUNDGREN

1 A Resolution designating May 2023 as Jewish American
2 Heritage Month.

3 WHEREAS, in 1654, a small ship carrying 23 Jewish
4 refugees sailed into the present-day Port of New York
5 and New Jersey and became the first Jewish communal
6 presence to settle on American soil; and

7 WHEREAS, the Jewish refugees expanded the frontier
8 of religious freedoms that would help define the
9 bedrock principles of justice, equality, and freedom
10 upon which the United States of America was built; and

11 WHEREAS, many Jewish American survivors of the
12 Holocaust have dedicated their lives to fighting for
13 civil rights and educating future generations about the
14 dangers of bigotry and antisemitism and the resilience
15 of the human spirit; and

16 WHEREAS, the Jewish experience in America has
17 consistently reminded us that liberty and opportunity
18 ultimately triumph over prejudice and hate; and

19 WHEREAS, since 2006, Jewish American Heritage Month
20 is traditionally observed nationwide in May of each
21 year; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States is currently experiencing
23 a rise in antisemitism, and according to the American
24 Jewish Committee, one in four Jewish Americans has
25 experienced antisemitism this past year; and

1 WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League reports that
2 in 2021, antisemitic incidents reached an all-time
3 high across the United States with a total of 2,717
4 incidents of assault, harassment, and vandalism; and

5 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month acknowledges
6 the achievements of Jewish Americans in the military,
7 the arts, civil rights, education, entertainment,
8 history, law, literature, medicine, music, politics,
9 science, sports, and other areas; and

10 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is a
11 time to reflect on the unique and important role of
12 Jewish Americans and to redouble efforts to combat
13 antisemitism; and

14 WHEREAS, in May, we honor the timeless traditions,
15 heritage, and contributions of Jewish Americans that
16 drive our progress as a nation each and every day; NOW
17 THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
19 the House of Representatives designates the month of
20 May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month and invites
21 the citizens of Iowa to learn more about the heritage
22 and contributions of Jewish Americans and to observe
23 this month with appropriate programs, activities, and
24 ceremonies.