

SCR 21 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Wagner

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/27/19

Action: Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Hass, Thomsen, Wagner

Exc: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors and recognizes Alter Wiener, 1926-2018, for sharing his life story and his experiences during the Holocaust with thousands of Oregon students and community members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Percentage of U.S. citizens, Canadians, and Europeans that have knowledge of the Holocaust
- Impact of Alter Wiener on Oregon students and others
- Incidences of anti-Semitism and hate crimes in Oregon and United States
- Number and type of hate groups
- Holocaust survivor stories
- Importance of understanding patterns of genocide
- Characteristics of effective genocide prevention programs
- Other states' adoption of Holocaust curriculum
- Availability of source material for curriculum

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Corrects names and timing of events. Identifies camp as a forced labor camp.

BACKGROUND:

Alter Wiener was born on October 8, 1926, in Chrzanów, Poland, to Mordechai-Markus and Pearl Wiener. When Mr. Wiener was 13 years old, his father was murdered by German forces following their invasion of Poland. In June 1942, Mr. Wiener was deported to the Blechhammer forced labor camp. Over the next three years, he was imprisoned in five different forced labor camps.

In May 1945, Mr. Wiener was liberated by Soviet armed forces from the Waldenburg concentration camp. He was 18 years old and weighed 80 pounds. After his liberation, Mr. Wiener returned to Poland in search of his relatives and found that only five cousins had survived the Holocaust and that 123 family members had perished. In 1960, he moved to New York and became a U.S. citizen. After coming to Oregon in 2000, Mr. Wiener began to give presentations on his life story and his experiences in the Holocaust to Oregon high school students. In the following years, he made nearly a thousand appearances in schools and other community organizations. Mr. Wiener gave his final presentation at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon on December 5, 2018. He passed away on December 11, 2018, in Hillsboro, Oregon.