

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 11, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

The Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial, located in Bedford Heights, Ohio, is a unique and remarkable landmark. In 1961, surviving victims of the Holocaust erected the Kol Israel Memorial, dedicating it to the six million Jewish victims of the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators. That makes this memorial likely the oldest of its kind in the United States.


On the memorial's exterior walls, the survivors engraved the names of their family members and loved ones. At the foot of the monument, the survivors also buried firsthand artifacts, keepsakes, and the ashes of victims from three concentration camps. Given its historical significance, the Kol Israel Memorial deserves to be recognized as a national memorial. Designating this site ensures that future generations understand the true legacy of a very dark chapter in history. H.R. 7618 would do just that. This legislation comes at no cost to taxpayers and does not establish the memorial as a unit of the National Park Service. The Kol Israel Foundation will retain oversight and responsibility for the memorial, as it has for six decades.

Members of the Ohio community, including the Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine, the Ohio General Assembly, and prominent local and national stakeholders, have all supported efforts to recognize the Kol Israel Memorial as a national memorial. The concept also enjoys wide support from a coalition of organizations, such as the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, the Anti-Defamation League, and the American Jewish Committee.

The House and Senate authorizing committees recently reported this bipartisan measure favorably, and on September 19, 2022, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7618 by unanimous consent. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office indicated that implementing this legislation would not affect the federal budget. As Members leading this legislation, we request that H.R. 7618 be included in any must-pass legislation before the end of this legislation session.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Mike Carey  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Melanie A. Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress