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Testimony of Eve Nussbaum Soumerai  
Education Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
February 29, 2008

Chairman Senator Gaffey, Chairman Representative Fleischmann, and Members of the Committee, my name is Eve Nussbaum Soumerai and I am the sole Holocaust survivor of a large, loving family. I am here today to underscore my belief in the importance of mandating Genocide education, based on my experience as an educator and author of Teacher Resource Guides devoted to Human Rights issues.

Endless lobbying efforts and follow-up meetings preceded the publication of each of three editions of Teacher Resource Guides in 1981, 1988 and 1998 entitled HUMAN RIGHTS: THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND EQUALITY. The resource guides focused on genocide education, including teaching objectives, lesson units and activities such as multimedia TRIBUTES, or read-through plays, that honored inspirational individuals, among them, Martin Luther King Jr., Anne Frank and Roberto Clemente.

Each guide was introduced by teacher workshops, eagerly sought by educators and subsequently replicated in the State of California (with permission, of course).

The Preface of the 1998 Guide includes a description of a \$33,000 study funded by the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Hartford. The results demonstrated that human rights education of this type fostered greater sensitivity, responsibility, thinking skills, and spirited discussion among students. Additionally, teachers' energy and enthusiasm increased and reading skills improved. The Human Rights resource guides are now out of print.

Given the success of this type of education, and the dire needs of our children and our society today, not mandating Genocide education, I believe, is a tragedy.

I am happy to give away my life's work for the sake of the future.

I do hope you will find time to ask me questions.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: *Eve Nussbaum Soumerai*

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