



# THE PENNSYLVANIA JEWISH COALITION



## State Capitol News

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**PJC Mission Statement:** The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition (PJC), working individually and collectively with others, represents Pennsylvania's Jewish communities before state government and with other Pennsylvanians. Jewish values guide the PJC's focus on issues of importance to these communities, including public social policies and funding and regulation of the delivery of human services

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives Unanimously Passes Resolution In Support of Israel.** . . Under freshman Representative Brendan Boyle's (D-Phila.) leadership, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives has unanimously passed House Resolution (HR) 7. HR 7 "urges the support of the Congress of the United States to support the State of Israel in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Gaza Strip." The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition commends Representative Boyle for his efforts to emphasize the importance of this resolution and the need for a REAL cease-fire, and an end to terrorist attacks on the Israeli communities and people (in the last 2 months, during the current cease fire, Hamas has fired over 110 missiles into Israel.)

**Tolerance Legislation Passes House of Representative's State Government Committee** . . . House Bill 300 (HB 300), legislation written to protect people who live or work in Pennsylvania from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations, has passed the Pennsylvania House of Representative's State Government Committee. This legislation, introduced by Representative Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny) has been met with significant resistance from the Catholic Conference and the Evangelical Community. These organizations are stating their opposition to even recognizing sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class. A coalition supporting HB 300 is striving to combat the arguments from these opponents and support tolerance in our society. The Jewish Community needs to show our support for tolerance and fight acts of hate towards any and all individuals. This legislation is being considered for a vote by the entire Pennsylvania House of Representatives in May or June. Please call your elected officials and show your support for HB 300 and the importance of tolerance in our society.

**Pennsylvania's Annual Holocaust Civic Commemoration Mark Your Calendars – April 21, 2009** . . . The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition and Governor Rendell's Office are proud to announce that the Annual Holocaust Civic Commemoration will be held on Tuesday April 21, 2009 at 11:30am in the Governor's Reception Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Pennsylvania State Capitol (on the House of Representatives' side). **Governor Rendell is has been invited to speak at this program.** In addition to the Governor, other dignitaries of the Pennsylvania legislature will be invited to attend and participate in the program. The PJC has co-sponsored this event with the Governor's Office for more than the fifteen (15) years. This program has become an important longstanding tradition to insure that the Holocaust remains in the public view of all of the citizens of the Commonwealth. **If a Holocaust Survivor from your Federation would like to participate in this state-wide program, please contact Hank Butler at the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition Office -- 717.920.0734 or [hank@pajewishcoalition.org](mailto:hank@pajewishcoalition.org).**

**PJC Day on the Hill – April 21, 2009 – In Conjunction with the Holocaust Program** . . . In an effort to move the PJC's Legislative Agenda forward, a Legislative Day on the Hill is being scheduled in conjunction with the Holocaust Commemorative program - Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>. This program will focus on issues on important legislative issues established by the PJC's Legislative Agenda:

Sustain Funding for Social Service Programs  
Terror Free Investing focusing on Iran and Sudan  
Improving Aging in Place programs in Pennsylvania  
Education Improvement Tax Credits

This day is being tentatively scheduled to include –

Guest speakers on importance issues impacting our community  
Visits to our elected officials to Advance our Agenda  
Pennsylvania's Civic Commemoration of the Holocaust.

**Please consider attending and having other representatives from your federation to attend the Spring 2009 PJC Day on the Hill on Tuesday April 21, 2009 at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg.**

If you have any questions, please either call Hank Butler, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition at 717.330.4574 (cell) or e-mail at [hank@pajewishcoalition.org](mailto:hank@pajewishcoalition.org)