



The Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies (AJFCA) is pleased to support S. 3358, the Responding to Urgent needs of Survivors of the Holocaust (RUSH) Act. AJFCA member agencies are the primary social service providers for Holocaust Survivors in the United States. As people who work with Holocaust Survivors in their homes and in the community, the social workers are reminded each day of the importance to these resilient older adults of being able to remain safely at home. The ability to help provide that comfort will be greatly enhanced if the RUSH Act becomes law.

Although aging Holocaust Survivors face the same daily challenges as other older adults, they may be far more acutely impacted by premature or unnecessary institutionalization, with potentially severe consequences. While institutions are an excellent option for many individuals, for Survivors in particular the loss of privacy, control and autonomy, along with certain triggers, increases the likelihood of re-traumatization. In addition to addressing the specific challenges of Holocaust Survivors, AJFCA strongly supports the RUSH Act's goal to ensure that culturally appropriate meals are accessible for all seniors under the Older Americans Act.

AJFCA is the membership association for approximately 125 Jewish Family Service agencies across the United States and Canada. Ranging in size from small departments of local Jewish Federations to some of the largest human services agencies in North America, our members provide vital services to clients of all ages, faiths and economic backgrounds. They counsel families, feed the hungry, assist the elderly and protect the vulnerable. We are united by the values of our Jewish tradition and work together toward our common goal of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

AJFCA looks forward to cooperating with members of the Senate to advance the RUSH Act and explore other ways to ensure that Holocaust survivors have access to the care they need. For additional information, please contact Shelley Rood at Shelley.Rood@JewishFederations.org or (202) 736-5880.