

Dear **[Senator/Representative _____]**:

As your constituent, I am writing to request that you cosponsor **[S. 999 or H.R. 2064]**, the Responding to Urgent needs of Survivors of the Holocaust (RUSH) Act.

If signed into law, this legislation would help Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security and quality of life. It would also ensure that home-delivered and congregate meals reflect dietary need based on religious requirements.

Aging Holocaust survivors have needs similar to those of other older Americans, but they have different responses to certain aspects of institutionalized care because of their distinct histories. The loss of privacy, autonomy, and control combined with certain sights, sounds, smells or practices can trigger residual psychological effects from experiences during the Holocaust. The RUSH Act can help survivors remain in their homes for as long as possible.

Of the approximately 120,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States today, three-quarters are over the age of 75 and about two-thirds live alone. Many of these survivors struggle to afford basic needs, such as adequate food and healthcare; about half of the survivors arriving in the U.S. after 1965 from the former Soviet Union fall beneath the poverty line. Compounding the problem is the fact that atrocities during the Holocaust have caused so many to survive alone leading to smaller families to lean on.

[The Jewish Federation/Jewish Family Service of _____] is dedicated to ensuring that Holocaust survivors get the support and care they need to live in their communities with comfort and security. [Insert local facts about Holocaust survivor population or services you provide to them.]

The RUSH Act amends the Older Americans Act by adding Holocaust survivors to the designation of those with the 'greatest social need' to receive services to age in place. Services under the Older Americans Act include meals, transportation, case management and caregiver support. Additionally, the RUSH Act seeks to allow funding for congregate and home-delivered meals that may cost more due to a religious or cultural dietary requirement.

We urge you to cosponsor **[S. 999 or H.R. 2064]**, the RUSH Act as soon as possible. Please contact **[insert name, number, email address]** if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[insert name and contact information]