

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 206

Session of
1987

INTRODUCED BY HAGARTY, PIEVSKY, FOX, ITKIN, FREEMAN, JOSEPHS,
COHEN AND NAHILL, DECEMBER 2, 1987

ADOPTED, DECEMBER 2, 1987

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the struggle for the rights of Soviet Jews.

2 WHEREAS, Over 380,000 Jews have taken the first steps to
3 apply for permission to leave the Soviet Union; and

4 WHEREAS, Although there was a marked increase from the 914
5 allowed to leave in 1986 when Jewish emigration up to September
6 30, 1987, reached a total of 5,403, this represents a small
7 percentage of those permitted to emigrate in 1979, when 51,300
8 emigrated; and

9 WHEREAS, Currently, the Soviet Union is attempting to resolve
10 some high profile cases of long-waiting "refuseniks" (Jews who
11 have been denied permission to emigrate); and

12 WHEREAS, While the Soviet Union is a signatory to the
13 Helsinki Accords and other international covenants regarding
14 emigration, the granting of permission to emigrate continues to
15 be arbitrarily made or denied by the authorities; and

16 WHEREAS, The impending summit talks between President Reagan
17 and General Secretary Gorbachev presents a unique and critical

1 opportunity for Soviet Jewry; and

2 WHEREAS, The Soviet Jewry Rally in Washington, D. C., on
3 December 6, 1987, will show support of the community for the
4 rights of Jews to be permitted to emigrate if they so desire;
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly,
7 in this year of the Bicentennial of our Constitution and our
8 commitment to law and justice, recognize the importance of the
9 continuing struggle on behalf of the rights of Soviet Jews; and
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
12 the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Pennsylvania
13 Jewish Coalition.