March 23, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) is a living memorial to the Holocaust and inspiration to citizens and leaders worldwide to understand the dangers of Anti-Semitism, confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. We recognize USHMM’s more than 30 years of work to build and support the field of Holocaust education, in addition to the contributions of USHMM to advance the quality and sustainability of Holocaust education at the local, State, and national levels by engaging teachers and students across disciplines and grade levels.

We appreciate the Subcommittee’s increased level of funding for USHMM in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) and support to require the Director of the USHMM to provide a report on the USHMM’s Holocaust memory and educational programs, including the collection and usage of historical documentation, such as survivor testimony. In anticipation of the release of the report and the growing evidence of Anti-Semitic activity in the United States, I urge the Subcommittee to provide at least $2 million in additional funding above the FY20 enacted level of $60.388 million and include the following report language below to bolster USHMM’s widely utilized Holocaust education programs.

“United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.—The Committee directs the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to apply $2,000,000 of the funds provided above the enacted level towards Education and Exhibitions.”

Additional investments will allow the USHMM to accelerate ongoing work to refresh the Permanent Exhibition’s education programs and provide additional support for the growing number of digital visitors, including K-12 teachers and students, on how and why the Holocaust happened. We thank the Subcommittee for their consideration of this request and partnership in addressing the needs of teachers to incorporate historically accurate instruction on human rights atrocities, including the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator