

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We write to respectfully request an update from your administration regarding the state's efforts to vaccinate Holocaust survivors living in Florida against the COVID-19 virus.

According to the best available estimates, there are about 80,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States, including tens of thousands residing in Florida. They are of advanced age—all are over 75 and most are over 85—and are therefore particularly vulnerable to the virus.¹ A sizeable percentage of Holocaust survivors live in poverty or have limited means. Some live at home, others reside at nursing homes or at other facilities where they receive a range of services.

We have a special responsibility to protect Holocaust survivors, whose numbers are rapidly dwindling due to the passage of time and, unfortunately, the ravages of the pandemic. Now in the twilight of their lives, these men and women are a national treasure. They endured Hitler's death camps and experienced other unspeakable horrors. They are a living, breathing reminder of humanity's capacity for evil, but also of humanity's capacity for grace and fortitude in the face of such evil.

We understand that Florida has a program in place to vaccinate Holocaust survivors in the state.² We ask that you please update us on the progress this program has made to date, including your best estimates regarding the number of Holocaust survivors who have been vaccinated, the number of Holocaust survivors who still need to be vaccinated, and your strategy to vaccinate those remaining individuals.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

¹ See, e.g., John Leland, "They Survived the Holocaust. Now They're Confronting the Virus," *New York Times* (May 4, 2020), available [here](#); Liam Stack, "The Push to Vaccinate 20,000 Holocaust Survivors in New York," *New York Times* (April 1, 2021), available [here](#).

² See Press Release, "Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Inter-Faith Vaccine Event, New Pilot to Vaccinate Holocaust Survivors," (Feb. 4, 2021), available [here](#).