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State of Washington

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By Representatives Schual-Berke, Ruderman, Kagi, Dickerson, Kenney, McDermott, Darneille, Pettigrew, Miloscia, Haigh, Chase, Edwards, Morrell, Conway, Clibborn, Fromhold and O'Brien

Read first time 04/25/2003. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance.

1 TO THE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF HOLOCAUST ERA
2 INSURANCE CLAIMS (ICHEIC), AND TO THE ICHEIC MEMBER INSURANCE
3 COMPANIES: ALLIANZ AG, AXA, ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI S.P.A., WINTERTHUR
4 SWISS INSURANCE COMPANY, AND ZURICH FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND TO THE
5 WASHINGTON STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was a tragedy of proportions the world has
10 never before witnessed; and

11 WHEREAS, More than sixty years have passed since the tragic events
12 we call the Holocaust transpired in which Nazi Germany murdered six
13 million Jews as a part of a systematic program of genocide known as
14 "the Final Solution"; and

15 WHEREAS, There are as many as 145,000 Holocaust survivors in the
16 United States, many of whom are elderly and infirm and some of whom are
17 living in abject poverty and lacking basic needs including food,
18 shelter, and medical care; and

19 WHEREAS, Many Holocaust survivors are currently suffering from a

1 lack of resources to provide themselves adequate health care,
2 prescription medication, and a satisfactory quality of life; and
3 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 200 Holocaust survivors living in
4 Washington state, with an average age of 80 years; and
5 WHEREAS, The International Commission of Holocaust Era Insurance
6 Claims (ICHEIC) was established in 1998 and charged with establishing
7 a just process that will expeditiously address the issue of unpaid
8 insurance policies issued to victims of the Holocaust; and
9 WHEREAS, The first priority of the ICHEIC must be to publish all
10 available information relating to victim's insurance policies to secure
11 payment of claims expeditiously, and to publicly account for all the
12 actions occurring under its auspices; and
13 WHEREAS, Claimants who are not satisfied with the ICHEIC retain the
14 right to pursue their claims in a court of law; and
15 WHEREAS, In 1999 the Washington Legislature unanimously passed the
16 Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act which established the Holocaust
17 Survivors Assistance Office in the Office of the Insurance
18 Commissioner; and
19 WHEREAS, Since March 2000, over 150 Washington State residents have
20 filed Holocaust-era insurance claims with the Holocaust Survivors
21 Assistance Office and more than 300 Holocaust-era insurance claims have
22 been submitted to the ICHEIC; and
23 WHEREAS, As a result of an agreement between the ICHEIC, the
24 Federal Republic of Germany, and other parties, a Humanitarian Fund of
25 one hundred sixty-five million dollars has been created to assist needy
26 Holocaust survivors; and
27 WHEREAS, The Washington State Insurance Commissioner holds a seat
28 on the International Holocaust Task Force of the National Association
29 of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC);
30 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, in as
31 much as there continue to be Holocaust survivors living anywhere in the
32 world who lack basic needs, including food, shelter, and medical care
33 and other things essential to allow them to live out the remainder of
34 their lives in basic dignity, the ICHEIC promptly disburse any and all
35 humanitarian and insurance funds obtained to, or on behalf of,
36 Holocaust survivors in order to meet the basic needs of the survivors;
37 and

1 Your Memorialists further pray that the funds be disbursed to the
2 numbers of Holocaust survivors in order to meet the basic needs in fair
3 proportion to their numbers worldwide based on accurate population
4 data, with full and transparent accounting for the use of funds
5 disbursed; and

6 Your Memorialists further pray that the Washington State Insurance
7 Commissioner utilize his position on the NAIC International Holocaust
8 Commission Task Force to further the intent of this Memorial.

9 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
10 transmitted to the Chair of the ICHEIC, the ICHEIC member insurance
11 companies: Allianz AG, AXA, Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A., Winterthur
12 Swiss Insurance Company, and Zurich Financial Services, and the
13 Washington State Insurance Commissioner.

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