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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections  
(originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Benton, Fraser,  
Prentice, Carlson, Keiser, Winsley and Schmidt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/03.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

8 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature has enacted the first  
9 state law regulating international matchmaking organizations, chapter  
10 19.220 RCW; and

11 WHEREAS, Improved access to information will allow clients to make  
12 informed, wiser decisions about forming lifetime relationships,  
13 emigrating to a foreign country, and becoming acculturated to a new  
14 society and value system without customary support systems; and

15 WHEREAS, Improved protections can best happen with national  
16 standards that enhance the decision-making process of all clients of  
17 international matchmaking organizations and such standards may only be  
18 achieved through federal legislation; and

19 WHEREAS, The problem of trafficking in humans is a world-wide

1 matter of urgent concern involving human rights, human dignity, and  
2 public safety; and

3 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature has taken, and continues  
4 to take, appropriate legislative steps to combat human trafficking and  
5 redress the damages done to victims of human trafficking; and

6 WHEREAS, The Washington State Task Force Against the Trafficking of  
7 Persons has studied the issue of human trafficking and its impact on  
8 persons living and working in Washington state; and

9 WHEREAS, The task force has put forth its recommendations in a  
10 report to the Governor and Legislature and one of the recommendations  
11 is for improvements in the federal law regulating international  
12 matchmaking organizations to the end that safety of the clients of the  
13 organizations is improved through better access to information for all  
14 clients;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
16 enact revisions to P.L. 104-208, Sec. 652, U.S.C. Sec. 1375 that will  
17 afford all clients of international matchmaking organizations at least  
18 the same public safety information as is required under Washington  
19 state as set forth in chapter 19.220 RCW. Specifically, all non-United  
20 States clients of international matchmaking organizations should have  
21 access to criminal background information on prospective American  
22 partners, the marital history of prospective American partners that is  
23 affirmed to be true by the prospective American partner, that non-  
24 United States clients be informed of their right to such information  
25 and that such information be provided to non-United States clients upon  
26 request and be provided in the native language of the requestor.

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Congress is encouraged to promote the  
28 entry of the United States into appropriate international accords and  
29 protocols for regulation of international matchmaking organizations;  
30 and

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
32 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
33 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
34 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
35 Washington.

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