
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8023

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Jacobsen, Horn, Benton, West, Regala, Kohl-Welles, Prentice, Rasmussen and McAuliffe

Read first time 04/15/2003. Referred to Committee on Financial Services, Insurance & Housing.

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Many Holocaust survivors are currently suffering from a
12 lack of resources to provide themselves adequate health care,
13 prescription medication, and a satisfactory quality of life; and

14 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 200 Holocaust survivors living in
15 Washington state, with an average age of 80 years; and

16 WHEREAS, The International Commission of Holocaust Era Insurance
17 Claims (ICHEIC) was established in 1998 and charged with establishing
18 a just process that will expeditiously address the issue of unpaid
19 insurance policies issued to victims of the Holocaust; and

1 WHEREAS, The first priority of the ICHEIC must be to publish all
2 available information relating to victim's insurance policies to secure
3 payment of claims expeditiously, and to publicly account for all the
4 actions occurring under its auspices; and

5 WHEREAS, Claimants who are not satisfied with the ICHEIC retain the
6 right to pursue their claims in a court of law; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1999 the Washington Legislature unanimously passed the
8 Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act which established the Holocaust
9 Survivors Assistance Office in the Office of the Insurance
10 Commissioner; and

11 WHEREAS, Since March 2000, over 150 Washington State residents have
12 filed Holocaust-era insurance claims with the Holocaust Survivors
13 Assistance Office and more than 300 Holocaust-era insurance claims have
14 been submitted to the ICHEIC; and

15 WHEREAS, As a result of an agreement between the ICHEIC, the
16 Federal Republic of Germany, and other parties, a Humanitarian Fund of
17 one hundred sixty-five million dollars has been created to assist needy
18 Holocaust survivors; and

19 WHEREAS, The Washington State Insurance Commissioner holds a seat
20 on the International Holocaust Task Force of the National Association
21 of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC);

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, in as
23 much as there continue to be Holocaust survivors living anywhere in the
24 world who lack basic needs, including food, shelter, and medical care
25 and other things essential to allow them to live out the remainder of
26 their lives in basic dignity, the ICHEIC promptly disburse any and all
27 humanitarian and insurance funds obtained to, or on behalf of,
28 Holocaust survivors in order to meet the basic needs of the survivors;
29 and

30 Your Memorialists further pray that the funds be disbursed to the
31 numbers of Holocaust survivors in order to meet the basic needs in fair
32 proportion to their numbers worldwide based on accurate population
33 data, with full and transparent accounting for the use of funds
34 disbursed; and

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

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

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