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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8023**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2004 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Financial Services, Insurance & Housing  
(originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Jacobsen, Horn, Benton,  
West, Regala, Kohl-Welles, Prentice, Rasmussen and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

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 one hundred seventy-four thousand  
16 Holocaust survivors in the United States, many of whom are elderly and  
17 infirm; and

18 WHEREAS, Recent studies have reported an alarming incidence of  
19 poverty among elderly survivors in the United States and confirmed that

1 many survivors lack basic needs including food, shelter, medical care,  
2 prescription medication, and a satisfactory quality of life; and

3 WHEREAS, The National Association of Jewish Family and Children's  
4 Agencies has estimated that an additional thirty million dollars per  
5 year is needed to help survivors in the United States who are not  
6 receiving assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 200 Holocaust survivors living in  
8 Washington state, with an average age of seventy-eight years; and

9 WHEREAS, A recent survey conducted jointly by the Jewish Family  
10 Service of Seattle and the Washington State Office of the Insurance  
11 Commissioner's Holocaust Survivors Assistance Office found that aging  
12 survivors will require extensive home care and other social services in  
13 the near future; and

14 WHEREAS, A historic settlement was signed with Swiss banks in 1999  
15 providing for one billion two hundred fifty million dollars in payments  
16 to victims of the Holocaust; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States District Court for the Eastern District  
18 of New York oversees the Swiss settlement and is considering the  
19 reallocation of up to six hundred million dollars in unclaimed  
20 settlement funds to be used for humanitarian purposes benefiting needy  
21 Holocaust survivors around the world; and

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

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

30 WHEREAS, The ICHEIC Humanitarian Fund has, to date, distributed two  
31 million four hundred thousand dollars for the benefit of survivors in  
32 the United States, including twelve thousand dollars in the state of  
33 Washington; and

34 WHEREAS, The Washington State Insurance Commissioner holds a seat  
35 on the International Holocaust Task Force of the National Association  
36 of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC); and

37 WHEREAS, The NAIC supports fair allocation of humanitarian funds;

1       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, in as  
2 much as there continue to be Holocaust survivors living anywhere in the  
3 world who lack basic needs, including food, shelter, and medical care  
4 and other things essential to allow them to live out the remainder of  
5 their lives in basic dignity, any and all humanitarian or other  
6 discretionary funds obtained for, or on behalf of, Holocaust survivors  
7 be promptly disbursed in order to meet the current and anticipated  
8 basic needs of the survivors; and

9       Your Memorialists further pray that the funds be disbursed to the  
10 numbers of Holocaust survivors in order to meet the basic needs in fair  
11 proportion to their numbers worldwide based on accurate population  
12 data, with full and transparent accounting for the use of funds  
13 disbursed; and

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

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

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