
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4028

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored 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 02/06/04.

1 TO THE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF HOLOCAUST ERA
2 INSURANCE CLAIMS (ICHEIC), AND TO THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES
3 DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, AND TO THE
4 WASHINGTON STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER:

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 Holocaust was a tragedy of proportions the world has
9 never before witnessed; and

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

14 WHEREAS, There are as many as one hundred seventy-four thousand
15 Holocaust survivors in the United States, many of whom are elderly and
16 infirm; and

17 WHEREAS, Recent studies have reported an alarming incidence of
18 poverty among elderly survivors in the United States and confirmed that
19 many survivors lack basic needs including food, shelter, medical care,
20 prescription medication, and a satisfactory quality of life; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, in as
37 much as there continue to be Holocaust survivors living anywhere in the
38 world who lack basic needs, including food, shelter, and medical care

1 and other things essential to allow them to live out the remainder of
2 their lives in basic dignity, any and all humanitarian or other
3 discretionary funds obtained for, or on behalf of, Holocaust survivors
4 be promptly disbursed in order to meet the current and anticipated
5 basic needs of the survivors; and

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

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

14 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
15 transmitted to the Chair of the ICHEIC, the Chief Judge of the United
16 States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and the
17 Washington State Insurance Commissioner.

--- END ---