
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Benton, Fraser, Prentice, Carlson, Keiser, Winsley and Schmidt

Read first time 01/28/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections.

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 WHEREAS, The problem of trafficking in humans is a world-wide
6 matter of urgent concern involving human rights, human dignity, and
7 public safety; and

8 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature has taken, and continues
9 to take, appropriate legislative steps to combat human trafficking and
10 redress the damages done to victims of human trafficking, including
11 enacting the first state law regulating international matchmaking
12 organizations, chapter 19.220 RCW; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The task force has put forth its recommendations in a
17 report to the Governor and Legislature and one of the recommendations
18 is for improvements in the federal law regulating international
19 matchmaking organizations to the end that safety of the clients of the

1 organizations is improved through better access to information for all
2 clients; and

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

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

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

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Congress is encouraged to promote the
24 entry of the United States into appropriate international accords and
25 protocols for regulation of international matchmaking organizations;
26 and

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

--- END ---