
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4026

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Kelley and Seaquist

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 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 conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan require thousands of
9 civilian contractors to support our military; and

10 WHEREAS, The Defense Base Act of 1941 requires government
11 contractors to purchase workers' compensation insurance policies for
12 their employees to cover injuries, including combat injuries and death,
13 when working outside the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The War Hazards Compensation Act of 1942 allows
15 reimbursement to carriers for the cost of combat injuries and deaths,
16 plus a fifteen percent administrative fee; and

17 WHEREAS, The government pays private insurance carriers more than
18 four hundred million dollars annually for this insurance; and

19 WHEREAS, Private insurance carriers are making profits of up to 35
20 percent from these policies; and

1 WHEREAS, An obvious conflict of two federal laws is inadvertently
2 costing the government hundreds of millions of dollars, and will
3 continue to cost hundreds of millions of dollars every year into the
4 foreseeable future;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
6 Defense Base Act be reformed to prevent double payment to insurance
7 carriers.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
9 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
10 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
12 Washington.

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