

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Christie Whitman issued the following statement today:

"I am deeply troubled by the lack of progress in the ongoing negotiations between the Swiss banking community and the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. This is a matter of simple justice.

"Those survivors of the Holocaust who have claims against these banks deserve a swift and just resolution of their claims. Their suffering at the hands of heartless criminals during the Holocaust must not be further compounded by those who would put profit ahead of people.

"I have been watching with great interest the progress of Assemblyman Joel Weingarten's legislation addressing this issue. When it reaches my desk for signature, I will evaluate it within the context of the progress being made in the ongoing negotiations. But there's one thing that needs no further evaluation - the need for a quick resolution to this issue on behalf of Holocaust victims."