

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ambassador Ronald Lauder Statement on House of Representatives Passing Bill to Help Restore Art Stolen by the Nazis to Holocaust Survivors**

**Statement from Ambassador Ronald Lauder, Chairman of the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR) and President of the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) on the passage of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery (HEAR) Act.**

*“With the House’s approval of the HEAR Act, Holocaust victims and their families are one step closer to a clear legal path to recover art stolen by the Nazis,” said Ambassador Ronald Lauder, Chairman of the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR) and President of the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO).*

*“These cases should be decided on the facts and merit, not hindered by legal technicalities. This important legislation will further this objective and help ensure that justice for Holocaust survivors and their families is achieved. I am inspired by – and thankful to – Chairman Goodlatte and Representative Nadler for their bipartisan leadership and expeditious attention to this critical issue. I urge the Senate to quickly pass the HEAR Act and send it to President Obama to be signed into law.”*

**Background on the HEAR Act**

The House passed the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act (HEAR) Act on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. The bill awaits passage in the Senate.

The HEAR Act was introduced by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and passed unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 15, 2016. The legislation was subsequently introduced in the House of Representatives by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and House Judiciary Committee Member Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).

The legislation will ensure claims to Nazi-confiscated art are not unfairly barred by statutes of limitations, and instead are resolved on their merits. The HEAR Act is consistent with longstanding U.S. policy and commitments. These include the Washington principles, which called for nations to develop national processes to deal with dispute resolution. This bill will enable that commitment to be upheld in the United States.

For more information, please visit  
<http://www.commartrecovery.org/hear-act>