

Union Calendar No. 19

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 32

[Report No. 106-34]

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President and the Congress should join in undertaking the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen and protect the retirement income security of all Americans through the creation of a fair and modern Social Security Program for the 21st century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

MARCH 1, 1999

Additional sponsor: Mr. BURTON of Indiana

MARCH 1, 1999

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic]

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President and the Congress should join in undertaking the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen and protect the retirement income security of all Americans through

the creation of a fair and modern Social Security Program for the 21st century.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the “Social Se-
 5 curity Guarantee Initiative”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Social Security program provides bene-
 9 fits to 44,000,000 Americans, including more than
 10 27,000,000 retirees, 5,000,000 people with disabili-
 11 ties, and 2,000,000 surviving children, and is essen-
 12 tial to the dignity and security of the Nation’s elder-
 13 ly, disabled, and their families;

14 (2) the Social Security program’s progressive
 15 benefit structure is of particular importance to
 16 women, due to their (A) longer life expectancies than
 17 men, making the Social Security program’s lifetime,
 18 inflation-adjusted benefits a critical income support
 19 especially for widows; (B) lower average earnings;
 20 and (C) lower pension and other retirement savings,
 21 stemming in part from their lower incomes and their
 22 spending an average of 11 years out of the paid
 23 workforce caring for families;

1 (3) the approaching retirement of the Baby
2 Boom Generation will result in the Social Security
3 program's benefit costs exceeding its tax revenues
4 beginning in 2013;

5 (4) the Social Security program faces looming
6 insolvency and instability in the next century so that
7 by 2032 the Social Security Trust Funds will be
8 fully depleted and the program will be able to honor
9 less than 75 percent of benefit commitments; and

10 (5) prompt action is necessary to restore Ameri-
11 cans' confidence that their retirement benefits will
12 be protected.

13 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

14 The President and the Congress should join in
15 strengthening and protecting the retirement income secu-
16 rity of all Americans through the creation of a fair and
17 modern Social Security program for the 21st century
18 that—

19 (1) ensures equal treatment across generations
20 to all Americans, especially minorities and other low-
21 income workers;

22 (2) recognizes the unique obstacles that women
23 face in ensuring retirement, disability, and survivor
24 security and the essential role that the Social Secu-

1 rity program plays in protecting financial stability
2 for women;

3 ~~(3) provides a continuous benefit safety net for~~
4 ~~workers, their survivors, their dependents, and indi-~~
5 ~~viduals with disabilities;~~

6 ~~(4) protects guaranteed lifetime benefits for~~
7 ~~current retirees and those nearing retirement; and~~

8 ~~(5) avoids any increase in taxes.~~

9 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

10 *This joint resolution may be cited as the “Social Secu-*
11 *riety Guarantee Initiative”.*

12 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

13 *The Congress finds that—*

14 *(1) the Social Security program provides benefits*
15 *to 44,000,000 Americans, including more than*
16 *27,000,000 retirees, 5,000,000 people with disabilities,*
17 *and 2,000,000 surviving children, and is essential to*
18 *the dignity and security of the Nation’s elderly, dis-*
19 *abled, and their families;*

20 *(2) the Social Security program’s progressive*
21 *benefit structure is of particular importance to*
22 *women, due to their (A) longer life expectancies than*
23 *men, making the Social Security program’s lifetime,*
24 *inflation-adjusted benefits a critical income support*
25 *especially for widows; (B) lower average earnings;*

1 *and (C) lower pension and other retirement savings,*
2 *stemming in part from their lower incomes and their*
3 *spending an average of 11 years out of the paid work-*
4 *force caring for families;*

5 *(3) the approaching retirement of the Baby*
6 *Boom Generation will result in the Social Security*
7 *program's benefit costs exceeding its tax revenues be-*
8 *ginning in 2013;*

9 *(4) the Social Security program faces looming*
10 *insolvency and instability in the next century so that*
11 *by 2032 the Social Security Trust Funds will be fully*
12 *depleted and the program will be able to honor less*
13 *than 75 percent of benefit commitments; and*

14 *(5) prompt action is necessary to restore Ameri-*
15 *cans' confidence that their retirement benefits will be*
16 *protected.*

17 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

18 *The President and the Congress should join in*
19 *strengthening the Social Security program and protecting*
20 *the retirement income security of all Americans for the 21st*
21 *century in a manner that—*

22 *(1) ensures equal treatment across generations to*
23 *all Americans, especially minorities and other low-in-*
24 *come workers;*

1 (2) *recognizes the unique obstacles that women*
2 *face in ensuring retirement, disability, and survivor*
3 *security and the essential role that the Social Secu-*
4 *urity program plays in protecting financial stability*
5 *for women;*

6 (3) *provides a continuous benefit safety net for*
7 *workers, their survivors, their dependents, and indi-*
8 *viduals with disabilities;*

9 (4) *protects guaranteed lifetime benefits, includ-*
10 *ing cost-of-living adjustments that fully index for in-*
11 *flation, for current and future retirees; and*

12 (5) *does not increase taxes.*

Amend the title so as to read as follows: “Joint reso-
lution expressing the sense of the Congress that the
President and the Congress should join in undertaking
the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen the
Social Security program and protect the retirement in-
come security of all Americans for the 21st century.”.

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