

TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE  
SOCIAL SECURITY

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a resolution on Social Security. The following was agreed upon by both houses of the Vermont General Assembly on the 13th of May, 1999.

I call the attention of my colleagues to this resolution and submit the resolution to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for their benefit.

J.R.H. 113

JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING CONGRESS TO  
PROTECT AND PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY

Offered by: Representatives Corren of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Bouricius of Burlington, Darrow of Newfane, Darrow of Dummerston, Hingtgen of Burlington, Jordan of Middlesex, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kreitzer of Rutland City, Nuovo of Middlebury, Smith of Sudbury, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweetser of Essex, Valsangiaco of Barre City, Vinton of Colchester, Wheeler of Burlington and Zuckerman of Burlington.

Whereas, the purpose of Social Security is to provide a strong, simple and efficient form of basic insurance against the adversities of old age, disability and dependency, and

Whereas, for 60 years Social Security has provided a stable platform of retirement, disability and survivor annuity benefits to protect working Americans and their dependents, and

Whereas, the costs to administer Social Security are less than one percent of the benefits delivered, and

Whereas, the American and world economies continue to encounter periods of high uncertainty and volatility that make it as important as ever to preserve a basic and continuing safety net of protections guaranteed by our society's largest guarantor of risk, the federal government, and

Whereas, Social Security affords protections to rich and poor alike and no citizen, no matter how well-off today, can foretell tomorrow's adversities, and

Whereas, average life expectancies are increasing and people are commonly living into their 80's and 90's, making it more important than ever that each of us be fully protected by defined retirement benefits, and

Whereas, medical scientists are continually developing new ways to maintain and enhance the lives of people with severe disabilities, thus making it more important that each of us to be protected against the risk of dependency, institutionalization and impoverishment, and

Whereas, the lives of wage earners and their spouses are seldom coterminous; one often outlives the other by decades, making it crucial to preserve a secure base of protection for children and other family members dependent on a wage earner who may die or become disabled, and

Whereas, Social Security, in current form, reinforces family cohesiveness and enhances the value of work in our society, and

Whereas, Congress currently has proposals to shift a portion of Social Security contributions from insurance to personal investment accounts for each wage earner, and

Whereas, Social Security, our largest and most fundamental insurance system, cannot

fulfill its protective function if it is splintered into individualized stock accounts and must create and manage millions of small risk-bearing investments out of a stream of contributions intended as insurance, and

Whereas, private accounts cannot be substituted for Social Security without eroding basic protections for working families, since such protections, to be strong, must be insulated from economic uncertainty and be backed by the entity best capable of spreading risk, the federal government, and

Whereas, the diversion of contributions to private investment accounts would dramatically increase financial shortfalls to the Social Security trust fund and require major reductions in the defined benefits upon which millions of Americans depend; and

Whereas, to administer 150 million separate investment accounts would require a larger bureaucracy, and the resulting expense and the cost of converting each account to an annuity upon retirement would consume much of the profit or exacerbate the loss realized by each participant, and

Whereas, the question of whether part of the Social Security Trust Fund should be diversified into investments other than government bonds so that, while still invested collectively at low expense, returns may be increased, thus enhancing the capacity of the fund to meet its obligations to pay benefits while spreading the risk across the entire spectrum of Social Security participants, is entirely different from that of splintering its millions of accounts, and

Whereas, creating an array of winners and losers would be contrary to the basic principles of insurance and risk distribution, thus defeating the purpose of this part of our retirement system, and

Whereas, Congress amended the Internal Revenue Code to provide a full menu of provisions that enables working Americans and their employers to voluntarily contribute to tax-sheltered accounts that are open to the opportunities and exposed to the risks of investment markets, diverting Social Security contributions to private accounts duplicates existing programs, and

Whereas, such recently created systems now cover half of American families, now therefore be it

*Resolved*, by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly respectfully and strongly urges Congress not to enact laws that might tend to diminish or undermine a unified and stable Social Security system, and be it further

*Resolved*: That laws to encourage workers and their employers to save or invest for retirement should supplement and not substitute for the basic benefits of Social Security insurance that are vital to American working families, and be it further

*Resolved*: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States and each member of the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GRANHAN  
PLAYGROUND WOLFPACK

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphia sports pro-

gram, the Granhan Playground Wolfpack. The Wolfpack is the latest in a long time of Philadelphia champions. My city is the proud home of many former, and future champs: people like Joe Frazier, the 76ers, the Flyers, the Phillies and the Eagles. And now, we can add the Wolfpack to that long list.

This year, Granhan Playground is not only the home of the 12 year old and under hockey champs, it also produced the 15 years old and under championship team. Mr. Speaker, this record breaking season could not have happened without the determination of kids who gave their all to bring glory to their neighborhood. The 12 and under team won with a talented roster featuring Mike and Kevin Cassidy; Kevin Lowthert; George Bochanski; Dan Devine; Mike Devine; Joe Walsh; Chris Porter; Mike McLaughlin; Chris Porter; Jason Mardinly and Rich Canfield. They also benefited from the skills of goalie Sean Rodgers, this year's Vezina award winner.

The 15 and older squad, anchored by fellow Vezina trophy winner, Julie Bochanski and playoff mvp, R.J. Carrido; featured Joe Walsh; Joe Grajek; Tom August; Jay Bailey; Brain DiTomo; Jim Dougherty; Josh Mills and Tom Kay, proved to be equally fierce competitors. They did their neighborhood proud in their march to victory.

But none of this would have been possible without the support and involvement of Wolfpack parents, family, and community volunteers. I am proud of them and all they do to help these kids grow into healthy and productive adults. And I have a special pride in one young man who works with the "Pack." I want to salute Robert F. Brady, my son, who is Recreation Leader at Granhan Playground. I love him and am proud of all the work he does.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in saluting the Granhan Wolfpack on this successful season and wish them many more.

CONGRATULATING ROSALINA  
FREEMAN FOR IMPROVING COM-  
MUNITY HEALTH IN EAST TEN-  
NESSEE

**HON. VAN HILLEARY**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Rosalina Freeman, who was recently named one of ten outstanding individuals from around the country to receive a \$100,000 award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP).

Ms. Freeman is the founder and executive director of Reachout, Inc., which provides rural health education and services for East Tennessee's Hispanic factory and farm workers. Reachout works with other rural health care providers to offer mammograms, cancer prevention education, HIV/AIDS prevention, lead and pesticide education and post-natal education. In addition to these rural health services, Ms. Freeman's Reachout also offers GED programs and translation services.

Thanks to Ms. Freeman's leadership, dedication and caring spirit, the translation and referral services have reached more than 3,000