
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 67 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, MURPHY, MAHONEY,
BISHOP, D. COSTA, FABRIZIO, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HORNAMAN,
KAVULICH, KIRKLAND, KULA, SABATINA, READSHAW AND YOUNGBLOOD,
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the House of Representatives' support for the Social
2 Security system and urging the Congress of the United States
3 to reconsider raising Social Security payments to seniors and
4 the disabled, due to the rise in food and energy prices and
5 the cost of living.

6 WHEREAS, Economic security for American families is an
7 essential part of national security, and Social Security is the
8 foundation of America's retirement security program; and

9 WHEREAS, The Social Security system is a unifying force for
10 our nation at a time when national unity is a paramount value;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Social Security protects virtually all American
13 families against the loss of earnings resulting from retirement,
14 disability or death; and

15 WHEREAS, Social Security is vital to the well-being of all
16 Americans because of the ability of the survivors and disability
17 benefits program to provide necessary resources for eligible
18 Americans regardless of age; and

1 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of older Americans rely on Social
2 Security for the majority of their income, and approximately
3 one-third of elderly individuals receive nearly all of their
4 income from Social Security; and

5 WHEREAS, For 75 years, through good times and bad, Social
6 Security has succeeded in protecting working persons and their
7 families from precipitous drops in household income because of
8 lost wages; and

9 WHEREAS, Social Security has kept millions of Americans out
10 of poverty, including senior citizens, widows and disabled and
11 dependent children whose parents have died, become disabled or
12 retired; and

13 WHEREAS, Social Security provides the only source of
14 retirement, disability and survivors benefits backed by the full
15 faith and credit of the United States and guaranteed against
16 erosion caused by inflation; and

17 WHEREAS, Social Security revenues and reserves are fully
18 adequate to pay all benefits due at least until 2039 and
19 adequate to pay 80% of benefits thereafter; and

20 WHEREAS, Social Security has not contributed to the Federal
21 budget deficit or national debt; and

22 WHEREAS, More than 53 million Americans receive Social
23 Security benefits, including approximately 36.5 million retirees
24 and their spouses, 8.2 million disabled persons and their
25 spouses, 4.5 million surviving spouses of deceased workers and
26 4.3 million dependent children; and

27 WHEREAS, Seniors have put in a lifetime of hard work, helping
28 to make the economy grow and make this nation great, and they
29 deserve a dignified and secure retirement; and

30 WHEREAS, Nearly three out of ten of today's 20-year-olds will

1 become disabled before he or she reaches age 67, according to
2 the Social Security Administration; and

3 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of workers in the private sector
4 have no long-term disability insurance; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States is experiencing the worst economic
6 downturn since the Great Depression; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States decennial census has reported that
8 43.7 million Americans, or 14.3% of the population, currently
9 live below the poverty level, a number which is expected to
10 increase; and

11 WHEREAS, Forty-two million Americans rely on food stamps to
12 meet their nutritional needs, according to the United States
13 Department of Agriculture; and

14 WHEREAS, Current economic conditions, combined with the high
15 cost of housing, energy and food, have made it difficult for the
16 most vulnerable Americans to provide for basic necessities; and

17 WHEREAS, The Social Security Act provides for an automatic
18 increase in Social Security and SSI benefits if there is an
19 increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and
20 Clerical Workers from the third quarter of the last year when a
21 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was determined to the third
22 quarter of the current year; and

23 WHEREAS, The Social Security Act prohibits a change in the
24 maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax as
25 well as the retirement earnings test exempt amounts if there is
26 no COLA; and

27 WHEREAS, The Social Security Administration announced in
28 October 2010 that Social Security recipients will not receive a
29 COLA in 2011 because there was no increase in the Consumer Price
30 Index from the third quarter of 2008, the last year a COLA was

1 determined, to the third quarter of 2010, and therefore, under
2 existing law, there can be no COLA in 2011; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress
4 of the United States to employ all possible means, including
5 amending Federal law, to raise Social Security payments to
6 seniors and the disabled.