

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 52

Urging that the railroad industry, including rail labor, management and retiree organizations, open discussions for adequately funding an amendment to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to modify the guaranteed minimum benefit for widows and widowers whose annuities are converted from a spouse to a widow or widower annuity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 1997

Mr. QUINN (for himself, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. FOGLIETTA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KLINK, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KLECZKA, Ms. DANNER, Mr. VENTO, and Mr. KUCINICH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging that the railroad industry, including rail labor, management and retiree organizations, open discussions for adequately funding an amendment to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to modify the guaranteed minimum benefit for widows and widowers whose annuities are converted from a spouse to a widow or widower annuity.

Whereas, for years, many in the railroad industry have argued that annuities paid to widows and widowers under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 are inadequate;

Whereas during the lifetime of the employee and the spouse, the employee receives a full annuity and so does the spouse;

Whereas, however, after the employee's death, only a widow's or widower's annuity is payable, which under current law is no less than that widow or widower received as a spouse in the month before the employee's death;

Whereas this widow's or widower's annuity is often found inadequate and leaves the survivor with less than the amount of income needed to meet ordinary and necessary living expenses; and

Whereas no outside contributions from the American taxpayer are needed, and any changes will be paid for from within the railroad industry itself: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress of the United States recog-
4 nizes the concern of many in the railroad industry
5 that the spousal annuity under the current system
6 is inadequate and often leaves the survivor with less
7 than the amount of income needed to meet ordinary
8 and necessary living expenses;

9 (2) the Congress of the United States also rec-
10 ognizes that a process of dialogue must take place
11 among all parties of the railroad community includ-
12 ing rail labor, management and retiree organizations
13 before railroad annuity legislation can be enacted;
14 and

1 (3) because of the self-sufficient and unique na-
2 ture of the Railroad Retirement System, Congress
3 urges and exhorts all parties of the railroad commu-
4 nity, including rail labor, management and retiree
5 organizations to find a suitable way to fund an
6 amendment that would improve the survivor benefits
7 component to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.

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