

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 80

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.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 1998

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## 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 after the employee's death, however, only a widow's or widower's annuity is payable, which under current law is 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 Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring), That—*

3            (1) Congress recognizes the concern of many in  
4        the railroad industry that the widow's and widower's  
5        annuity under the current system is inadequate and  
6        often leaves the survivor with less than the amount  
7        of income needed to meet ordinary and necessary liv-  
8        ing expenses;

9            (2) Congress also recognizes that a process of  
10       dialogue must take place among all parties of the  
11       railroad community including rail labor, manage-  
12       ment, and retiree organizations before railroad an-  
13       nuity legislation can be enacted; and

14           (3) because of the self-sufficient and unique na-  
15       ture of the Railroad Retirement System, Congress  
16       urges and exhorts all parties of the railroad commu-

1 nity, including rail labor, management, and retiree  
2 organizations to find a suitable way to fund an  
3 amendment that would improve the survivor benefits  
4 component to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.

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