

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 32

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

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,*
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4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Social Security program provides bene-
4 fits to 44,000,000 Americans, including more than
5 27,000,000 retirees, 5,000,000 people with disabil-
6 ities, and 2,000,000 surviving children, and is essen-
7 tial to the dignity and security of the Nation’s elder-
8 ly, disabled, and their families;

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

19 (3) the approaching retirement of the Baby
20 Boom Generation will result in the Social Security
21 program’s benefit costs exceeding its tax revenues
22 beginning in 2013;

23 (4) the Social Security program faces looming
24 insolvency and instability in the next century so that
25 by 2032 the Social Security Trust Funds will be

1 fully depleted and the program will be able to honor
2 less than 75 percent of benefit commitments; and

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

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

7 The President and the Congress should join in
8 strengthening and protecting the retirement income secu-
9 rity of all Americans through the creation of a fair and
10 modern Social Security program for the 21st century
11 that—

12 (1) ensures equal treatment across generations
13 to all Americans, especially minorities and other low-
14 income workers;

15 (2) recognizes the unique obstacles that women
16 face in ensuring retirement, disability, and survivor
17 security and the essential role that the Social Secu-
18 rity program plays in protecting financial stability
19 for women;

20 (3) provides a continuous benefit safety net for
21 workers, their survivors, their dependents, and indi-
22 viduals with disabilities;

23 (4) protects guaranteed lifetime benefits for
24 current retirees and those nearing retirement; and

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1 (5) avoids any increase in taxes.

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