

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 132

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives against reductions in Social Security benefits and arbitrary reductions in the Consumer Price Index.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 1997

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives against reductions in Social Security benefits and arbitrary reductions in the Consumer Price Index.

Whereas for over 60 years the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program under title II of the Social Security Act has been the most successful universal social insurance program in the world;

Whereas 44 million Americans today receive benefits from such program;

Whereas two-thirds of beneficiaries under such program rely on such program as their primary source of income, and

one-fourth of them rely on it for 90 percent of their income;

Whereas half of senior citizens have yearly incomes of less than \$15,000;

Whereas over half of the beneficiaries under such program would be forced to live in poverty without their benefits from such program;

Whereas millions of beneficiaries under such program rely upon annual cost-of-living adjustments, which are derived from the Consumer Price Index prescribed from time to time by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, in order to ensure that their purchasing power is not eroded by inflation;

Whereas a 1994 calculation based on an experimental index for the elderly designed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics has found that the Consumer Price Index may understate, not overstate, inflation for the elderly due to their disproportionate expenditures for rising health costs; and

Whereas many Americans live on a fixed income which is protected from inflation only by the Consumer Price Index: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the 105th Congress should not consider any
4 proposal for reducing benefits under the old-age,
5 survivors, and disability insurance program under
6 title II of the Social Security Act; and

7 (2) the Congress should consider neither pro-
8 posals for arbitrary reductions in the Consumer

1 Price Index nor proposals for any transfer of the re-
2 sponsibility for establishing, maintaining, or adjust-
3 ing the Consumer Price Index to an outside, politi-
4 cally appointed commission, but rather should en-
5 sure that the accuracy and integrity of the
6 Consumer Price Index continue to be maintained by
7 the professional economists of the Bureau of Labor
8 Statistics in the Department of Labor.

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