

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# **H. RES. 174**

Recognizing the unique effects that proposals to reform Social Security may have on women.

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## **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

APRIL 3, 2003

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POMEROY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. STARK, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CASE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. BERKLEY, and Ms. LOFGREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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# **RESOLUTION**

Recognizing the unique effects that proposals to reform Social Security may have on women.

Whereas the Social Security benefit structure is of particular importance to low-earning wives and widows, with 63 percent of women beneficiaries aged 62 or older receiving wife's or widow's benefits;

Whereas three-quarters of unmarried and widowed elderly women rely on Social Security for over half of their income;

Whereas without Social Security benefits, the elderly poverty rate among women would have been 52.2 percent and among widows would have been 60.6 percent;

Whereas women tend to live longer and tend to have lower lifetime earnings than men do;

Whereas women spend an average of 11.5 years out of their careers to care for their families, and are more likely to work part-time than full-time; and

Whereas during these years in the workforce, women earn an average of 70 cents for every dollar men earn: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-  
2 nizes the unique obstacles that women face in ensuring  
3 retirement security and survivor and disability stability  
4 and the essential role that Social Security plays in guaran-  
5 teeing inflation-protected financial stability for women  
6 throughout their entire old age, and it is the sense of the  
7 House of Representatives that the Congress and the Presi-  
8 dent should take these factors into account when consid-  
9 ering proposals to reform the Social Security system.

