## 112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

## S. RES. 230

Expressing the sense of the Senate that any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include cuts to Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

July 11, 2011

Mr. Whitehouse (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Merkley, and Mr. Franken) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

## **RESOLUTION**

- Expressing the sense of the Senate that any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include cuts to Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits.
- Whereas over 34,000,000 retired workers currently receive Social Security benefits in amounts that average a modest \$14,100 a year;
- Whereas, in 2008, 23 percent of retired workers receiving Social Security benefits depended on those benefits for all or almost all of their income;
- Whereas according to AARP, Social Security benefits kept 36 percent of seniors out of poverty in 2008;
- Whereas reducing Social Security benefits would cause many seniors to have to choose between food, drugs, rent, and heat;

- Whereas 95 percent of seniors in the United States, who numbered almost 37,000,000 in 2008, got their health care coverage through the Medicare program;
- Whereas without Medicare benefits, seniors, many of whom live off of Social Security benefits, would have to turn to the costly and uncertain private market for health care coverage;
- Whereas the Social Security program and the Medicare program are extremely successful social insurance programs that permit seniors in America to retire with dignity and security after a lifetime of hard work; and
- Whereas the Social Security program and the Medicare program help relieve young American families from worry about their own futures, allowing freedom of opportunity in America: Now, therefore, be it
- 1 Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that any
- 2 agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include
- 3 cuts to Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits.

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