

Introduced by

Representatives Berg, Haas, Klein

Senators Stenehjem, Christmann, Grindberg

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution urging the President and Congress to reform and strengthen the Social  
2 Security system in order to ensure its viability for future generations.

3 **WHEREAS**, the President is committed to keeping the promise of Social Security for  
4 today's retirees and those nearing retirement while strengthening Social Security for our  
5 children and grandchildren; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Social Security provides a critical foundation of income for retired and  
7 disabled workers; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Social Security benefits constitute 90 percent of total income for one-third  
9 of Americans over age 65; and

10 **WHEREAS**, 114,047 North Dakotans are receiving Social Security benefits; and

11 **WHEREAS**, 81,968 North Dakotans are receiving Social Security retirement benefits;  
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, 12,652 North Dakotans are receiving Social Security disability benefits;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, 19,427 North Dakotans are receiving Social Security survivor's benefits;  
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, 4,740 North Dakota children under age 18 are receiving Social Security  
18 benefits; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the trustees of the Social Security trust fund estimate that doing nothing to  
20 fix the Social Security system will cost Americans, as well as their children and grandchildren,  
21 an estimated \$10.4 trillion; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the trustees of the Social Security trust fund estimate that by the year  
23 2018, the Social Security system will begin to pay out more in benefits than it takes in in  
24 revenues, with shortfalls growing larger with each passing year; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the trustees of the Social Security trust fund estimate that by the year  
2 2042, when workers who are now in their mid-twenties begin to retire, the Social Security  
3 system will be bankrupt unless action is taken now to save it; and

4           **WHEREAS**, Social Security is sound for today's seniors and for those nearing  
5 retirement but needs to be reformed to ensure that Social Security is there for today's younger  
6 workers; and

7           **WHEREAS**, as a result of demographic changes, the current Social Security system will  
8 be unable to pay benefits scheduled for the children and grandchildren of today's beneficiaries  
9 unless enormous payroll tax increases or huge benefit cuts are enacted; and

10          **WHEREAS**, one of the tests of true leadership is to confront problems and not pass  
11 them on to the next generation; and

12          **WHEREAS**, to ensure the long-term viability of the Social Security system, the  
13 President and Congress can and should make some adjustments to improve its operation while  
14 preserving its essential character as the foundation of America's retirement system; and

15          **WHEREAS**, the President has vowed not to change benefits for today's retirees or  
16 near-retirees but desires that Social Security be permanently strengthened for our children and  
17 grandchildren, without raising payroll taxes; and

18          **WHEREAS**, the President favors voluntary personal accounts as part of a  
19 comprehensive solution to give younger workers the option to set aside a portion of their payroll  
20 taxes in an account they own and control; and

21          **WHEREAS**, workers who do not choose to have a personal account would continue to  
22 draw benefits as Americans have long done from the Social Security program; and

23          **WHEREAS**, personal accounts will provide Americans who choose to participate with  
24 an opportunity to share in the benefits of economic growth by participating in markets through  
25 sound investments;

26          **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
27 **OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

28          That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the President and Congress of the  
29 United States to reform and strengthen the Social Security system in order to ensure its viability  
30 for future generations; and

1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
2 resolution to the President, the majority and minority leaders of the United States Senate and  
3 House of Representatives, the trustees of the Social Security trust fund; and to each member of  
4 the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.