

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3056
(Representatives Berg, Haas, Klein)
(Senators Stenehjem, Christmann, Grindberg)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State