

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3056

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

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

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

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

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

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

3           **WHEREAS**, to ensure its long-term viability, the Social Security system needs to be  
4 fixed permanently; and

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

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

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

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

16          **WHEREAS**, establishing personal accounts would not add to the total costs faced by  
17 the Social Security system;

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

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

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