S.R. NO. 91

MAR 0 8 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT THE SOCIAL SECURITY 2100 ACT.

WHEREAS, the Social Security Act was originally passed in 1 1935 to provide essential benefits and financial security to 2 retired individuals, senior citizens, and persons with 3 disabilities; and 4 5 WHEREAS, individuals receiving Retired Insurance Benefits 6 7 constitute the largest group of Social Security beneficiaries, with over fifty-two million retired workers or family members 8 9 receiving monthly payments as of 2023; and 10 WHEREAS, more than ten thousand individuals from the baby 11 boomer generation become eligible for Retirement Insurance 12 Benefits from Social Security every day; and 13 14 WHEREAS, as a result of the retirement of the large baby 15 boomer generation, it is projected that under existing law, the 16 trust fund reserves for the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance 17 Trust Fund and Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted 18 19 by 2034; and 20 WHEREAS, it its projected that a depletion of the two 21 22 Social Security trust funds will result in only seventy-eight percent of scheduled benefits being paid to beneficiaries on a 23 timely basis after 2034; and 24 25 WHEREAS, in a response to this projected cut in benefits, 26 concerned congressional leaders introduced the Social Security 27 2100 Act in 2023, which is intended to permanently improve 28 29 Social Security's long-term health by extending the solvency of the two Social Security Trust Funds without increasing taxes on 30 the middle class; and 31 32

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WHEREAS, according to United States Representative John B. 1 Larson, co-introducer of the Social Security 2100 Act, the 2 Social Security 2100 Act increases benefits by two percent 3 across the board for all Social Security beneficiaries for the 4 first time in fifty-two years, improves the cost-of-living 5 adjustment to reflect economic inflation experienced by seniors, 6 7 and increases benefits for lower income retirees; and 8 9 WHEREAS, the Social Security 2100 Act also restores student benefits up to age twenty-six for dependent children of disabled 10 and deceased workers; increases access to benefits for children 11 12 living with grandparents or other relatives; repeals the windfall elimination provision and government pension offset 13 that currently penalizes certain public servants; ends the five-14 month waiting period to receive disability benefits; and 15 increases benefits by an additional five percent for seniors who 16 have been receiving benefits for fifteen years or more; and 17 18 19 WHEREAS, the Social Security 2100 Act would cut taxes for twenty-three million middle-income beneficiaries while paying 20 for benefits by applying the Federal Insurance Contributions Act 21 to earnings over \$400,000 and adding an additional 12.4 percent 22 net investment income tax for taxpayers making over \$400,000; 23 24 and 25 26 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Social Security remains a 27 well-funded public entitlement without being privatized through self-directed retirement accounts that would subject 28 beneficiaries, and particularly retiree savings accounts, to 29 considerable risk and redirect Social Security assets into the 30 31 coffers of Wall Street brokerages and investment banks; and 32 33 WHEREAS, the United States Congress must act urgently to preserve Social Security benefits for current and future 34 retirees; now, therefore, 35 36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second 37 38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, 39 that the United States Congress is urged to adopt the Social 40 Security 2100 Act; and 41

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is strongly encouraged to reject any legislation that would lead to the privatization of Social Security benefits; and 4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 6 Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore of the 7 United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of 8 Representatives, and each member of Hawaii's congressional 9 delegation.

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OFFERED BY:

Kal Almand

