

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 65

Senators Wojno, Bullock, Alexander, Ananich and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States  
2   to reject attempts to weaken, cut, or privatize Social Security and  
3   to enact policies to benefit current and future generations of  
4   working Americans.

5       Whereas, Social Security is an essential piece of supporting  
6   American seniors. Nearly 70 million Americans receive benefits from  
7   the Social Security Administration each month, including 8.2  
8   million people who receive disabled-worker benefits from Social  
9   Security; and

10       Whereas, Social Security benefits are critical in preventing  
11   an epidemic of senior poverty in the United States. Without the  
12   program, more than 40 percent of seniors would have incomes below

1 the federal poverty line, compared to less than 10 percent with  
2 Social Security benefits. In Michigan, hundreds of thousands of  
3 seniors are lifted out of poverty each year; and

4       Whereas, Social Security benefits are the only guaranteed  
5 source of retirement income for most Americans. The rise in  
6 defined-contribution retirement plans has subjected other  
7 retirement earnings to the shifts of the stock market. Half of  
8 retirees rely on Social Security benefits for at least half of  
9 their income, including nearly one quarter of seniors that depend  
10 on the benefits for at least 90 percent of their income; and

11       Whereas, The Social Security programs contribute to  
12 intergenerational wealth, specifically for marginalized  
13 communities. Reducing or altering these benefits would widen the  
14 intergenerational wealth gap between those communities that rely on  
15 the program and those that do not; and

16       Whereas, Most Americans, regardless of political affiliation,  
17 strongly support preserving Social Security and expanding access to  
18 its benefits. A recent survey found that more than 90 percent of  
19 Americans support Social Security. Another poll found nearly three  
20 in four voters support expanding Social Security benefits,  
21 including majority support from Democrats, Republicans, and  
22 Independents; and

23       Whereas, The federal government has an obligation to uphold  
24 its promise to all American workers. American workers and employers  
25 fund Social Security through payroll taxes, with the expectation  
26 that they will be able to collect these benefits when they are no  
27 longer able to work. It is up to elected leaders to ensure that  
28 this investment will provide a safety net for them and their  
29 families when they grow older; now, therefore, be it

1       Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of  
2 the United States to reject attempts to reform Social Security  
3 through privatization, benefit reduction, or deviation from the  
4 core elements of the program; and be it further

5       Resolved, That we memorialize the Congress of the United  
6 States to enact policies securing the futures of American workers;  
7 and

8       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
9 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States  
10 House of Representatives, the President of the United States  
11 Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.