

1. Implement a *Silver Alert* Notification Network for Missing Elderly Citizens

WHEREAS, elderly citizens who leave home and become disoriented or confused, to the point they are unable to find their way back home, may end up either seriously ill or dead before being found; and

WHEREAS, if public notice is promptly given that such a person is missing and the search is timely under-taken, the likelihood is far greater that the person will be found in time to avoid serious harm or death; and

WHEREAS, a notification network for missing elder citizens may be implemented without significant cost, merely by establishing the name and framework for the network at the National level, with encouragement to various interested organizations, such as the local area offices of United Way or Aging Services, and others to publicize the program and work with local law enforcement, the media, and other entities to timely launch and coordinate search and rescue efforts for missing elderly persons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Silver Haired Congress urge the United States Congress to establish a *Silver Alert* notification network for missing vulnerable senior citizens, similar to the *Amber Alert* for children, so that law enforcement, news media, and the general public may be promptly notified and timely search and rescue may be undertaken when a vulnerable, disoriented elderly person is discovered missing.

Submitted by: Herb Randall, NV

Sponsors: Lonnie Strait, NV, Russ Schoenbeck, NV, Mary Roberts, NV, Steve Carr, NV

EXHIBIT – SILVER HAired

NSH Congress Resolutions 2016 consists of 5 pages.

Entire document is provided.

Meeting Date: 08-30-16

2. Create an Ongoing Living Adjustment (SS COLA) Guarantee

WHEREAS, American seniors, disabled workers, and their families rely on their Social Security benefits and yearly COLA increases to help maintain financial security; and

WHEREAS, since 1975, these benefits have been increased annually by a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) except for 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Social Security Administration announced that due to average inflation as measured by the CPI-W, there would again be no COLA for seniors and beneficiaries in 2016; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Silver Haired Congress urge the United States Congress to provide certainty by guaranteeing annual COLA increases for Social Security beneficiaries that will help keep these beneficiaries out of poverty, and provide financial security; as provided in H.R. 5295 by Representative Joe Heck (R) NV and Representative Richard Nolan (D) of MN.

Submitted by: Herb Randall, NV, Lonnie Strait, NV, Russ Schoenbeck, NV, Mary Roberts, NV, and Steve Carr, NV

3. Increase funding in the States' HCCBG (Home and Community Care Block Grants) to Support Malnutrition Screening for Older Adults

WHEREAS, food insecurity is rising and malnutrition becomes a major stumbling block because it is becoming a "silent killer" for older adults. It is the new "senior crisis". Malnourished patients are more likely to experience complications, such as pneumonia, pressure ulcers, infections and death. Also a risk factor for falls, longer hospital stays, worse outcomes after surgery or trauma, and self-neglect (elder abuse); and

WHEREAS, one in three hospital patients are malnourished upon admission and almost one-third of U.S. patients (31 percent) experience declines in nutrition status during their hospital stay. Malnutrition increases length of hospital stays on average by 4 to 6 days. In our hospitals we need to change practices and promote more accountability for malnutrition, so as not to have nutrition-related issues lead to a readmission in 30 days or less; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 study estimates that the annual burden of disease-related malnutrition in the community across eight diseases was \$156.7 billion dollars. We should recognize the real threat that malnutrition poses to our older adult population and take appropriate action to better support healthy aging for our older population; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Silver Haired Congress urge the U S Congress to

Section 1: Increase funding in the HCCBG funding to include malnutrition screening and intervention in essential benefits and Medicare annual exam

Section 2: Include coverage for oral nutrition supplements for malnourished and at-risk dual-eligible populations

Section 3: Collect and analyze Medicare/Medicaid data to improve outcomes with malnutrition screening and intervention

Section 4: Expand medical nutrition therapy coverage to include malnutrition

Submitted by: Shirley Wiggins, NC and Gladys Britt, NC

4. Establish a Senate Standing Committee on Aging

WHEREAS, the Senate Special Committee on Aging was initially established in 1961 as a temporary committee and then became a permanent Senate committee in 1977, created to study issues related to older Americans, particularly Medicare, Social Security and the Older Americans Act, but was given no legislative authority; and

WHEREAS, although Medicare and Social Security are among the most costly of programs primarily affecting older Americans, all programs that primarily affect older Americans are growing in size, cost and importance because the senior segment of the US population is now larger and growing rapidly; and

WHEREAS, to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in programs for older Americans, Senate oversight should include a Standing Senate Committee that not only studies programs for older Americans, but is also empowered to consider and recommend legislation affecting older American programs and issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Silver Haired Congress urge the U. S. Senate to convert the existing Senate Special Committee on Aging to a Senate Standing Committee on Aging with full legislative authority, and to transfer to that Committee jurisdiction and oversight of issues and programs that primarily affect older Americans.

Submitted by: Pat J. Porter, TX and Carlos Higgins, TX

5. Reform Social Security Funding

WHEREAS, the Social Security Act was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935 and was designed to be funded by the payroll tax and thus, kept separate from the rest of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Trustees Report of 2015* estimated that, if no changes are made, the social security trust funds would be solvent until 2034; after 2034, only 75% of earned benefits could be paid, leaving no doubt that some changes must be made; and

WHEREAS, polling by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare and a survey commissioned by the National Academy of Social Insurance have shown that strong majorities of Americans favor raising the cap on Social Security's payroll taxes to restore Social Security's long-term solvency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Silver Haired Congress urge the United States Congress to reform Social Security funding by raising the cap on Social Security's payroll taxes to restore Social Security's long-term solvency, preferably as a part of an overall comprehensive plan to reform Social Security funding.

Submitted by: Herb Randall, NV

Sponsors: Lonnie Strait, NV, Russ Schoenbeck, NV, Mary Roberts, NV, Steve Carr, NV