

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

2 INTRODUCED BY M. MACDONALD

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE SOUND, LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR
6 SOCIAL SECURITY AND TO AVOID PRIVATIZING THE PROGRAM.

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8 WHEREAS, the Social Security Program has provided retirement benefits to millions of Americans for
9 75 years; and

10 WHEREAS, this program has historically been sound and has provided adequate incomes to keep
11 Montana's seniors out of poverty; and

12 WHEREAS, approximately 173,000 Montanans receive Social Security benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, Montanans receive Social Security benefits of more than \$158 million each month; and

14 WHEREAS, Social Security lifts approximately one-half of Montana's retirees above the poverty line; and

15 WHEREAS, many times throughout the past 75 years, the United States Congress has reviewed and
16 reformed the Social Security Act; and

17 WHEREAS, each of those reviews has maintained the Act's basic structure as an insurance program and
18 not an investment program; and

19 WHEREAS, Montanans were integral in developing the original Act 75 years ago; and

20 WHEREAS, as with any long-term program or institution, vigilance and prudent adjustments in both
21 revenue and expenditures are necessary to protect the Social Security Program's fiscal viability; and

22 WHEREAS, any attempt to privatize Social Security now could add trillions of dollars to the national debt
23 and could thus require a reduction in current and future benefits.

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25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
26 STATE OF MONTANA:

27 That the United States Congress be urged to:

28 (1) retain Social Security as an insurance fund;

29 (2) make whatever conservative adjustments are necessary to ensure the solvency of the trust funds
30 well beyond 2040; and

