

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Expressing the sense of the Congress that our current tax incentives for retirement savings provide important benefits to Americans to help plan for a financially secure retirement.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that our current tax incentives for retirement savings provide important benefits to Americans to help plan for a financially secure retirement.

Whereas private retirement plans in the United States paid out over \$3,824,000,000,000 in benefits from 2000 through 2009, while public sector retirement plans paid out \$2,651,000,000,000 during the same period, with both playing an essential role in providing retirement income for millions of our Nation's senior citizens;

Whereas there are approximately 670,000 private-sector defined contribution plans that are currently covering 67,000,000 participants, and over 48,000 private-sector defined benefit plans covering 19,000,000 participants;

Whereas \$4,700,000,000,000 is held in 401(k), 403(b), 457 and similar defined contribution plans, \$2,300,000,000,000 is held in private defined benefit plans, and another \$4,900,000,000,000 is held in Individual Retirement Accounts, largely consisting of funds rolled over from employer-based retirement plans;

Whereas from 2000 through 2009, employers have contributed almost \$3,500,000,000,000 to public and private retirement plans;

Whereas tax incentives are an important impetus for individuals to save for retirement and for employers to offer plans under our voluntary system;

Whereas generally, the taxation of amounts contributed to pension and retirement plans is simply deferred, not lost;

Whereas more than 70 percent of American workers making between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year contribute to their own retirement when covered by a retirement plan at work;

Whereas under current law, if business owners and managers sponsor a retirement plan, they also must cover and provide benefits to lower-income and middle-income employees;

Whereas 401(k) and similar defined contribution plans have been enhanced over the years by Congress on a bipartisan basis;

Whereas the private retirement system in the United States is voluntary and is dependent on the willingness of business owners and corporations to adopt and maintain retirement plans; and

Whereas the United States system of employer-based retirement savings is designed to work together with other per-

sonal savings and the Social Security program to provide meaningful income replacement upon retirement: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3           (1) tax incentives for retirement savings play an  
4       important role in encouraging employers to sponsor  
5       and maintain retirement plans and encouraging par-  
6       ticipants to contribute to such plans;

7           (2) existing tax incentives have increased the  
8       number of Americans who are covered by a retire-  
9       ment plan; and

10          (3) a reformed and simplified Federal tax code  
11       should include properly structured tax incentives to  
12       maintain and contribute to such plans and to  
13       strengthen retirement security for all Americans.